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Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision

September Open Houses Report



Forest Service Manti-La Sal National Forest

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Executive Summary

In September 2016, the Manti-La Sal National Forest hosted a series of eight open houses in communities near the Forest. During these meetings, we shared with the public our draft Wilderness Inventory maps, draft potential Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) lists, and distributed information related to the Assessment Phase of the planning process including the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) evaluation.

In addition to sharing information, we collected public input about our draft Wilderness maps, Assessment and SCC analyses, and general public comments and questions. This report is a comprehensive review of the data we received with answers to many of the questions we received.

Open Houses by the Numbers

In total, 184 people attended the eight September open houses, with an average of 23 attendees per event. Over the course of the open houses, we collected 100 public comments and a dozen questions. Over 95 percent of these comments originated locally in the state of Utah, with over 90 percent originating in rural communities near the Forest. This high level of local participation is an encouraging sign of the commitment from an engaged local population that cares deeply about its public lands.

Public Comments Summary

In preparation for the open houses, we created comment forms and surveys covering the Assessment process, the Wilderness evaluation process, and the SCC lists. These forms and surveys were made available in hard copy and online to the general public. After careful analysis, we derived key trends from the public comments.

In analyzing public comments, we summarized the findings according to the zone from which comments originated. Comments collected from residents near the Price, Ferron, and Sanpete Ranger Districts were designated as 'North Zone' comments, while those collected from the Moab and Monticello Ranger Districts were classified as 'South Zone' comments. Thus, when reading through the Executive Summary, you will notice the paragraphs under each section alternate between North and South zones. We choose to add this zone level of analysis because of the different ecosystems, geology, and socioeconomic factors between the North and South zones.

Wilderness Inventory Comments

Respondents in the North Zone were generally against the recommendation of Wilderness areas, showing concern over the land use restrictions that accompany Wilderness designation. The only exception to this was one respondent's desire to see Candling Mountain carried

forward as a potential Wilderness recommendation—a recommendation mirrored in Utah’s Public Lands Initiative (PLI).

In contrast, respondents in the South Zone tended to have more favorable attitudes toward Wilderness, particularly respondents from the Moab and Castle Valley areas who recommended several areas in the La Sal Mountains and Monticello District be carried over for consideration as Wilderness. However, much like the North Zone, the communities of Monticello and Blanding mostly opposed any new Wilderness recommendations.

Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) Comments

Respondents in the North Zone did not favor adding additional species to our proposed SCC list, mostly because of the perception that more SCC species would lead to more ‘micromanagement,’ as one respondent put it. Another respondent went as far as proposing the removal of all the species from the list, while another recommended the removal of the Peregrine Falcon and Cutthroat Trout.

In contrast to the North Zone, respondents from the South Zone sought the addition of other species to the proposed SCC list, especially the Pika and *Astragalus Isleyi* (a plant) in the La Sal Mountains and the Greenback Cutthroat Trout. Respondents also expressed their concern over the data requirement for adding species to the list, specifically the stipulation requiring the existence of data to prove a species is present in the Forest area *and* is under stress. Some said this was an unfair threshold, arguing that the absence of information did not mean the species was not at risk. Instead, they asserted that the lack of data was possibly a result of insufficient monitoring by the Forest Service.

Assessment Comments

Comments from the North Zone emphasized the importance of socioeconomic considerations in the planning process, as well as the need to consider the ecological differences between the zones. Several respondents were concerned we would potentially minimize such factors in our analysis—including the economic importance of grazing and recreation—in favor of environmental protection considerations. Separately, several commenters lamented over high fuel loads and the potential of catastrophic fire on the North Zone.

Similar to the comments we received during the July and August open houses, South Zone respondents in Moab and Castle Valley expressed their concern over watershed degradation—due to grazing near springs and municipal watersheds—and the State of Utah’s introduction of Mountain Goats in the La Sal Mountains, which some argued is threatening the sensitive Peale Natural Research Area. Comments also noted an uptick in recreation—particularly mountain biking, hunting, and ATV/UTV use—that has degraded sensitive ecosystems, particularly in the La Sal Mountains. Others noted the negative impact climate change is having on biodiversity.

Public Participation Survey

North Zone comments focused on increased recreation use in the Price, Ferron, and Sanpete Districts. Separately, the public noted concern over what it perceived as the underutilization of timber resources on the Forest, a finding that mirrors comments gathered in July and August. However, compared to the last round of comments, respondents on the Public Participation Survey seemed to provide more positive feedback about Forest management, particularly recreation. This does not necessarily indicate a trend, given the small number of comments collected, though it is worth mentioning given the complete absence of such sentiments during the last open houses.

Again, much like the comments we received from the South Zone in July and August, particularly from those in Moab, the public noted its concern over the negative impacts of grazing on watersheds, springs, and vegetation. Another similarity with earlier comments was the concern over the introduction of mountain goats in the La Sal Mountains and negative implications of heightened recreation, particularly mountain bikers riding too fast and the loudness of ATV/UTVs. An important distinction, however, is that sentiments in the Monticello and Blanding area of the South Zone were in favor of increased recreation and grazing and lamented the closing of trails in the area. These departures underscore the very different socioeconomic and ideological differences between user groups in the South Zone.

Miscellaneous Comments

Much like other sections, miscellaneous comments from the North Zone highlighted a concern over access limitations and the threat of catastrophic fire. Moreover, some comments indicated a desire for local government entities to participate in the planning process as cooperating agencies, particularly local water conservation Districts. We believe this is a positive sign of community awareness of—and engagement in—the planning process. Also evident in the comments was a generational and social connection between users in the North Zone and the Forest.

Protection of water, plants, and other sensitive areas featured prominently in the miscellaneous South Zone comments. These comment trends were in keeping with comments received on the surveys. However, much like the North Zone comments, it was clear that the South Zone communities share a historical and socioeconomic relationship with the Forest, one that dates back centuries in tribal communities. This relationship was articulated in several comments about the need to protect cultural and historic resources, as well as detailed citizen surveys of roadless areas in the Abajos.

Introduction

In September 2016, the Manti-La Sal National Forest held its second set of Forest Plan Revision public open houses. Going beyond introducing forest planning (the main objective of the first set of open houses) the September meetings introduced the Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) and Wilderness Evaluation processes and solicited feedback from the public to

support the Forest Plan Revision Assessment Report, a critical document in the planning process. Overall, we sought to achieve three objectives with the open houses:

- **Share** with the public our draft SCC list, Wilderness Inventory maps, and the 15 topics covered by the Assessment with specific information on the indicators, scales of analysis, data sources, and stressors, and drivers (one of the 15 assessment topics)
- **Inform** the public about upcoming events, Forest Plan Revision updates, the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) evaluation process, and other relevant information
- **Collect** public input on our draft SCC list and Wilderness Inventory map, as well as input on the Assessment topics and data to support the Assessment Report

About this Report

This report contains all of the public comments and many of the questions we received during the September open houses and is organized into six sections. The first of those sections covers the format of the open houses. The second details the communication and outreach tools we used to promote the open houses, as well as a list and description of the handouts, surveys, and other materials we distributed at the open houses. Titled *Open Houses by the Numbers*, the third section highlights statistics covering the number of open house attendees, comments, and questions received. The fourth section presents all the public comments we received during the September open houses, categorized by zone and resource area. The next section outlines the questions submitted to us about forest planning and our answers to those questions. Finally, the report concludes with key takeaways and next steps.

It is prudent to note a key structural difference in this report compared to the July/August Open House Report. Unlike that report, the comments and questions in this report are geographically separated between those collected in the North Zone, which includes the Price, Ferron, and Sanpete Ranger Districts, and the South Zone, which encompasses the Moab and Monticello Ranger Districts. We made this adjustment because the geologic, environments, and socioeconomics vary between the North and South Zones.

Open House Format

To achieve the aforementioned objectives, we hosted three tables at each of the open houses covering the Wilderness Evaluation, SCC lists, and the Assessment process. At each of these tables, we stationed corresponding resource specialists to disseminate information and answer questions.

Wilderness Table

Using examples from the Cibola National Forest in New Mexico, which recently conducted a Wilderness Evaluation under the 2012 Planning Rule, we provided attendees with information about the four phases of the Wilderness Evaluation process: Inventory, Evaluation, Analysis, and Recommendation. The purpose of using the Cibola example was to show the public the

progression of the Wilderness Evaluation process, especially the manner in which the volume of potential Wilderness areas decreases as additional criteria are added throughout the process.

To aid this explanation, we disseminated an informational Wilderness Evaluation Flow Chart Handout (Attachment 18) and comprehensive Wilderness Evaluation booklet (Attachment 17), both of which provided detailed information about each stage of the Evaluation process. Following this explanation, we shared our draft Wilderness Inventory maps (Attachment 16) with attendees and asked them to identify discrepancies in the data, if any, and to identify areas they would or would not like to see recommended for a Wilderness designation. To facilitate the collection of this information, we distributed a Wilderness questionnaire (Attachment 29), which was also posted online.

In addition to discussing the Wilderness Evaluation process, Forest Service representatives at the Wilderness station disseminated information related to the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Evaluation process. We also handed out a WSR fact sheet to generate a greater understanding of the WSR Evaluation process (Attachment 20).

SCC Table

At the SCC table, we discussed our methodology for SCC evaluation, highlighting the need for species to be both present in the planning area and for data to exist supporting a listing or delisting of a species. In explaining the process, we disseminated flow charts explaining the SCC evaluation methodology and worksheets we used to evaluate potential SCC (Attachment 25). We also shared with the public our draft SCC list (Attachment 26) and solicited feedback about what species, if any, should be removed or added to the list. To capture these comments, we distributed surveys at the open houses and posted them online (Attachment 30).

Assessment Table

The purpose of the Assessment table was to share with the public information on the 15 Assessment topics including the resource areas covered under each topic. We shared information on the spatial scales specialists are using to conduct the assessment of each resource area. The specialists also developed a list of indicators by resource area, which are used as a way to measure existing conditions and trends.

The interdisciplinary team (IDT) began the Assessment analysis by writing about topic #3, the stressors and drivers on the ecosystems. The specialists were able to share the stressors and drivers they identified with the public to get input at the open houses. A list of data sources was also shared with the public for input or submission of other available data.

We also distributed Assessment information handouts, which identified how the public can submit data to support the process. To facilitate the collection of public comments related to the Assessment, we disseminated an Assessment survey (Attachment 31), both at the open houses and online.

General Forest Plan Information

In addition to the three tables, we distributed handouts, questionnaires, and surveys from the July and August open houses, to accommodate those who may have missed those meetings or were in need of a refresher. All of these documents are present on our Forest Plan Revision webpage

(<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>); links to these documents are also attached to the end of this report.

Finally, it is important to note that we chose to add two additional open house locations to the schedule after the July and August open houses, which consisted of six. The reason for this was twofold: 1) to bolster the participation of Wasatch Front communities, which comprise a significant user group of the Manti-La Sal, and 2) to accommodate a request from the rural populations, particularly those in Mt. Pleasant, who had previously driven to Manti to attend open houses.

Communication and Marketing

In keeping with the 2012 Planning Rule's emphasis on robust public participation, we used a wide range of outreach and communication tools in marketing the open houses, including:

- **Postal mail:** In late August 2016, we mailed open house invitation letters (Attachment 39) to those on our mailing list.
- **Email:** We emailed open house invitations and reminders to those on its mailing list, starting in late August through the end of September.
- **Website:** We posted open house notices, schedules, and corresponding documents—including all the handouts that were disseminated at the open houses (surveys, informational documents, etc.)—to both our Planning webpage (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>) and Plan Revision StoryMap website (<http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b351acf860564ba8a9bee7df4a4c7774>).
- **Radio:** Open house notices were read aloud on radio stations near the Forest.
- **Newspaper:** Open house notices were published in the following newspapers near the Forest: Salt Lake Tribune, the Sanpete Messenger, the Moab Sun News, the Moab Times Independent, the San Juan Record, Emery Progress, ETV, and the Sun Advocate.
- **Flyers:** We posted open house notices at public locations, including post offices, public libraries, and at Manti-La Sal National Forest District offices (Attachment 41).
- **Meetings:** We marketed the open houses at various meetings with local, state, and tribal government entities, including the Utah State Native American Council, the Utah State Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO), the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Conservation Commission, and the Utah State Legislature.

Additionally, in an effort to expand the opportunities for public comment during the September open houses, we disseminated digital surveys that enabled respondents to submit feedback online, as well as PDF versions of the same survey, which were handed out at the open houses and posted to our Plan Revision webpages. Overall, we distributed five surveys and forms to collect public input:

- **Wilderness Survey (Attachment 29):** This survey prompted the public to provide input on our initial draft Inventory #1 map, specifically whether there were discrepancies in the data and whether there were areas the public wanted or did not want to see recommended for Wilderness.
- **SCC Survey (Attachment 30):** This survey included our initial draft potential plant and non-plant SCC lists. The survey prompted respondents to identify species they wanted to see included or excluded from the lists.
- **Assessment Survey (Attachment 31):** The Assessment survey identified the 15 assessment topics, our draft lists of stressors, drivers, indicators, spatial scale, and data sources we plan to use in the Assessment and asked respondents to identify additional information. The survey also prompted the public to identify additional data, including trends and existing conditions, covering the full spectrum of resource areas on the Manti-La Sal.
- **Public Participation Survey (Attachment 32):** This survey was also disseminated at the first round of public open houses in July and August. The survey prompted respondents to identify existing conditions on the Forest, the ways in which they use lands within the Forest boundary, and areas of use. The survey also collected information about the ways in which the public prefers to engage in the Plan Revision process and preferred communication methods.
- **Question and Answer Form (Attachment 33):** This document was also disseminated at the July/August open houses and was intended to collect general questions about Forest Plan Revision, so that we could answer them in a public forum to foster group learning.

To facilitate the completion of the aforementioned surveys and comment forms, and to heighten public knowledge of the Plan Revision process and our current status, we disseminated a number of informational handouts. The information contained on these handouts was also incorporated at the end of each survey listed above, which ensured the public had access to all available information before completing the surveys.

- **Wilderness Evaluation Informational Booklet (Attachment 17):** This booklet was written by the Regional Office and provided an in-depth explanation of our Wilderness Evaluation process and opportunities for public participation.
- **Wilderness Evaluation Flow Chart Flyer (Attachment 18)** This flow chart provided a succinct explanation of each phase of the Wilderness Evaluation process—Inventory, Evaluation, Analysis, and Recommendation—and explained the public's role at each stage of the process.
- **Wilderness Evaluation Timeline (Attachment 19):** This timeline identified the Wilderness Evaluation milestones—including the beginning of each phase, comment

periods, and publications dates—and specified public participation opportunities such as public meetings.

- **Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Evaluation Information Sheet (Attachment 20):** This handout provided an overview of the WSR evaluation process and our previous WSR evaluation, which occurred in 2007.
- **Forest Plan Revision Information Pamphlet (Attachment 21):** This handout provided a general overview of the Plan Revision process, including an overview of the various stages of the process, opportunities for public engagement, and contact information for Forest Service personnel engaged in Plan Revision.
- **Assessment Handout (Attachment 22):** This handout provided general information about the Assessment process, including an overview of the Assessment Topics that will be considered, as well as our draft lists of scales of analysis, indicators, and data sources.
- **Stressors/Drivers Handout (Attachment 23):** By resource area, this document highlighted our draft lists of stressors and drivers we plan to use in developing the Assessment Report.
- **Next Steps Handout (Attachment 24):** This document provided the public with details about the upcoming Plan Revision workshops, which are scheduled to be held in early November in two locations near the Forest. The document also provided the public with an overview of the topics we plan to discuss at these meetings.
- **SCC Criteria Flow Chart (Attachment 25):** This flow chart identified the process for determining potential SCC under the 2012 Planning Rule.
- **SCC Procedural Flow Chart and Initial Potential SCC List (Attachment 26):** This flow chart provided an overview of the process we are using to identify which species will be placed on the Manti-La Sal SCC list. This handout also highlighted our initial potential SCC list for both plant and non-plant species.
- **Best Available Scientific Information (BASI) Handout (Attachment 27):** In keeping with the 2012 Planning Rule's emphasis on using BASI, this handout explained what constitutes BASI.
- **Talking Points Collaborative Mapping Tool How-To Guide (Attachment 28):** This handout provided instructions for how to use our Talking Points collaborative mapping tool, an online geospatial platform that enables the public to draw shapes, upload files, and leave comments directly on a map of the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

In addition to the handouts listed above, we distributed copies of regulatory, reference, and background documents. Below is an overview of each of these documents.

- **The 2012 Planning Rule (Attachment 1):** Replacing the 1980 rule, the 2012 Rule is a regulatory document that outlines the way in which the Forest Service must conduct forest planning.
- **The Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision Public Participation Strategy (Attachment 2):** This document establishes our strategy for engaging with the public during the Plan Revision process, highlighting our commitment to robust public involvement.

- **The Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision Communication Plan (Attachment 3):** This document is complementary to the Public Participation Strategy, providing the framework—methods and tools—for executing and achieving our public outreach objectives in the Strategy document.
- **The Manti-La Sal National Forest’s, Forest Plan Revision Kickoff Open House Report – 26 August 2016 (Attachment 4):** This document is the predecessor to this report and, similarly, highlights public comments, questions, and feedback received at our first round of public meetings, held in July and August of 2016.
- ***A Citizens’ Guide to Forest Planning*, compiled by the Federal Advisory (FACA) committee for the Implementation of the 2012 Land Management Planning Rule (Attachment 5):** This document provides helpful information about how the public can participate in the Forest Planning Process.
- ***Understanding your Opportunities for Participating in the Forest Service Planning Process*, compiled by the FACA committee for the Implementation of the 2012 Land Management Planning Rule (Attachment 6):** This document provides an overview of the unique role of local, state, federal, and tribal entities in forest planning, including opportunities for engagement with the Forest through obtaining Cooperating Agency status.
- **The Manti-La Sal National Forest’s Potential SCC Review Procedural Report (Attachment 7):** The report documents our first round of SCC analysis and conclusions.
- **Examples of the initial potential SCC recommendation worksheets we sent to its Regional Office for review (Attachment 8):** These worksheets highlight the process through which we analyzed potential SCC candidates.
- **Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook Chapter 10 (Assessments) (Attachment 9):** This document provides official Forest Service guidance for conducting the Assessment during Plan Revision, including an overview of how the public can be expected to be involved.
- **Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook Chapter 70 (Wilderness) (Attachment 10):** This document highlights our Wilderness Evaluation process and opportunities for public participation.
- **Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook Chapter 80 (Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR)) (Attachment 11):** This document provides an overview of our WSR evaluation process and the public’s role.
- **The Intermountain Region’s guidance on Species of Conservation Concern (Attachment 12):** This document highlights the Intermountain Region’s (Region 4) interpretation of SCC regulations and corresponding guidance for individual forests to follow.
- **The Washington Office’s SCC Enquiry (Attachment 13):** This document highlights the manner in which individual forests had, up until the publication of the document, interpreted the 2012 Planning Rule’s SCC guidance to gain a better understanding of the agency’s SCC processes.
- **The Washington Office’s SCC guidance document, Applying the 2012 Planning Rule to Conserve Species, A Summarized Practitioner’s Reference (Attachment 14):** This document provides Forest Service-wide guidance for the analysis of SCC.

- **Assessment Scales of Analysis Maps (Attachment 15):** In total, we shared 18 Scales of Analysis maps with the public at the September open houses, including maps focusing on: cultural scales; geographic areas; Land Type Associations (LTAs); recreation zones; recreation opportunity spectrum; socioeconomic; vegetation types; watersheds; and wild and urban interface. These maps were also uploaded to our Planning webpage:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>.
- **Draft Wilderness Inventory #1 Maps (Attachment 16):** Draft maps of our Wilderness #1 Inventory were displayed at the September open houses and uploaded to our Planning webpage:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>

Open House by the Numbers

As mentioned previously, we held a total of eight open houses in September.

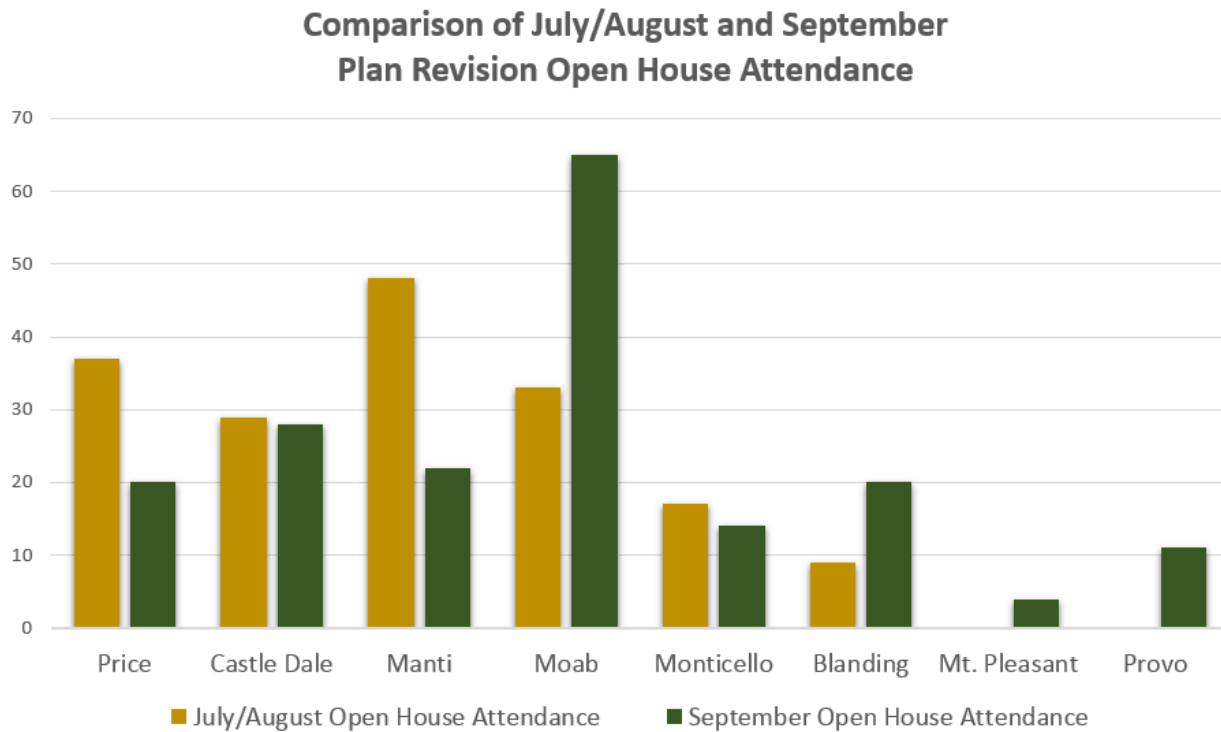
Table 1 - September Forest Plan Revision Open House Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Time</i>
06 Sept. 2016	Price	Carbon County Event Center	450 S. Fairgrounds Way	5:00pm - 7:00pm
07 Sept. 2016	Castle Dale	Emery County Courthouse (Swell Rm)	75 E. Main	5:00pm - 7:00pm
13 Sept. 2016	Moab	Grand Center	182 N. 500 W.	5:00pm - 7:00pm
14 Sept. 2016	Monticello	Canyon Country Discovery Center	1117 N. Main St.	5:00pm - 7:00pm
15 Sept. 2016	Blanding	Public Library	25 W. 300 S.	5:00pm - 7:00pm
21 Sept. 2016	Manti	Sanpete County Courthouse	160 N. Main	5:00pm - 7:00pm
29 Sept. 2016	Mt. Pleasant	Mt. Pleasant City Building	115 W. Main St.	5:00pm - 7:00pm
30 Sept. 2016	Provo	Utah County Historic Courthouse	51 S. University Ave.	5:00pm - 7:00pm

At 23 attendees per open houses, attendance figures for the September open houses were, on average, somewhat lower than the open houses we held in July and August, which had an average attendance of over 28. Overall, a total of 184 people attended the eight September open houses, while 174 attended the six open houses held over the months of July and August.

While attendance was higher, per event, at the July and August open houses, the average number of attendees per open house in September continued to eclipse historic public meetings on the Manti-La Sal, such as the 10 attendee average of the sage-grouse meetings last year. Additionally, we logged the highest attendance for any single Plan Revision event to date at the Moab meeting, which attracted 65 attendees.

Figure 1 - Comparison of July/August and September Plan Revision Open House Attendance.
Note: Open houses were not held in Mt. Pleasant and Provo during the July/August open houses.



From the information cutoff date of the July/August open house report (01 September 2016) to the 07 October 2016 information cutoff date of the September 2016 open houses, we received 100 public comments and 12 questions, broken down as follows:

- Miscellaneous Comments (such as emails, free-form documents, and letters): 15
- Wilderness Evaluation Survey: 34
- Assessment Survey: 13
- SCC Survey: 15
- Public Participation Survey: 23
- Q&A Form: 12

Geographically speaking, the respondents were primarily from communities near the Forest. Moreover, respondents from outside these areas, particularly those located along the Wasatch front, were generally state officials and did not represent non-governmental agencies or recreationist groups. Indeed, over 95 percent of those who submitted comments lived in the state of Utah, and about 90 percent of those lived in rural communities close to the Forest boundary.

Public Comments

This section displays the public comments collected from the September open houses. As mentioned previously, we received 100 comments and a dozen questions from the public. Comments are organized by the survey or comment form on which they were received. For instance, Wilderness Survey data are under a 'Wilderness' heading and SCC Survey data are under an 'SCC' heading and so on. Second, each of these subsections is divided between North and South zone data, because these two zones are geologically, socially, economically, and environmentally different. Preceding each subsection is an overview of the key trends and findings from the individual comments.

Before diving in, it is important to note that the trends, key takeaways, and individual comments identified in this report should not be construed as broad public support for any one viewpoint. Indeed, the number of comments we received was far too low compared to the total number of Forest users to make such broad generalizations.

Even though the data set is small, there are many different and valuable viewpoints expressed in this report that we will use to progress the planning process. Even more, it is our hope that through publishing these comments, we will generate more involvement in the process. We also hope it reinforces to the public our commitment to transparency and robust engagement in this process. Indeed, we are listening, and your inputs will impact the planning process.

Wilderness

As part of the Forest Plan Revision, we are required by the National Forest Management Act and the Wilderness Protection Act to conduct a Wilderness Evaluation to identify areas that may be suitable for a recommendation as Wilderness. The Wilderness evaluation process occurs concurrently with the Forest Plan Revision, extending throughout the four-year process; it consists of four phases: Inventory, Evaluation, Analysis, and Recommendation.

We are currently in the Inventory Phase of the Wilderness evaluation. During this phase, we are considering two criteria: size and improvements. Under the size criteria, we identified all areas on the Forest that are over 5,000 acres and are not impeded by improvements—such as roads, recreation sites, and vegetation treatments—as potentially suitable for Wilderness. In some instances, we also identified areas less than 5,000 acres but greater than 50 acres whose position near current Wilderness areas would make feasible their management as Wilderness. After conducting this analysis, we identified these areas on maps that we shared with the public at our September open houses.

The purpose of sharing these maps was to receive feedback from the public, particularly on whether identified areas should be carried forward or excluded from the next phase of the evaluation. We also asked the public to identify discrepancies in our data (e.g., the presence of an improvements or other features not listed on our maps). The method through which we gathered these inputs was a Wilderness Inventory Survey (Attachment 29), which asked the following questions.

- Question 1: Are there areas smaller than 5,000 acres that you think should be considered for recommendation as Wilderness? Such areas must be of sufficient size as to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, including but not limited to areas contiguous to existing wilderness and areas adjacent to Wilderness inventory areas administered by other Federal Agencies.
- Question 2: Are there any corrections that need to be made to the initial draft potential Wilderness Inventory maps (additions, adjustments, or deletions), including the location(s) of vegetation treatments, roads, trails, timber harvest areas, mines, recreational improvements, etc.?
- Question 3: Which potential Wilderness areas identified on the Initial Draft Potential Wilderness Inventory maps should be carried over to the next phase (Evaluation Phase) of the Wilderness Evaluation Process?
- Question 4: Which potential Wilderness areas identified on the Initial Draft Potential Wilderness Inventory maps should not be carried over to the next phase (Evaluation Phase) of the Wilderness Evaluation Process?

In total, we received 34 Wilderness comments and after careful analysis of the comments, we noticed that respondents mostly fell into one of two categories. The first were those who viewed Wilderness favorably and wanted to see more Wilderness designations. The second group took the opposite view and advocated against adding Wilderness areas.

Table 2 - Public Wilderness Recommendations

Wilderness Recommendations Received from Public Comments
Candling Mountain – NZ
All areas that overlay watershed HUC ranges in Carbon County – NZ
Hammond Canyon – SZ
Arch Canyon – SZ
Chipean Ridge – SZ
Allen Canyon – SZ
Sinbad Ridge – SZ
Gold Basin – SZ
South Mountain – SZ
Mill Creek – SZ
Beaver Creek – SZ

North Zone

Respondents in the North Zone were against the recommendation of Wilderness areas, showing concern over the land use restrictions that accompany Wilderness designations. The only exception to this was one respondent's desire to see Candling Mountain carried forward as a potential area for a Wilderness recommendation.

Responses to Question 1: "Are there areas smaller than 5,000 acres that you think should be considered for recommendation as Wilderness?"

- *None (2 respondents)*
- *It is impractical to have a Wilderness Area less than 5000 acres. Wilderness designation is against the practice of multiple use by handicapped people.*
- *I do not think that any of it should be made into wilderness.*
- *NO, wilderness designations are "land of NO use" designations. There are many "layers" of protection that have been added to the land management plans of the Forest Service since 1964. Thus, the Wilderness Act of 1964 is no longer needed in proper management of Forest Lands. You should focus your emphasis on multiple use and sustained yield philosophies. You should re-read: According to the Wilderness Act of 1964, Wilderness "is recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean... an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.*
- *There are no areas in Carbon County to consider for wilderness. Water from the USFS lands and adjoining hydrologic unit code (HUC) areas in and around Carbon County is paramount to the survival of Carbon County and its residents. The value for managing Wilderness is not preservation it is a recreation use. Preservation use would be to allow work that would preserve the watershed value and increase the rangeland health of a system. The highest value of these lands is the need to enhance the watershed of this area. There are no areas of wilderness on USFS land contiguous to the USFS land in Carbon County.*
- *I like little bear but would hate the wilderness designation.*
- *There are not any areas that meet the wilderness criteria.*
- *No areas in Sanpete County smaller than 5,000 acres should be considered for recommendation as Wilderness.*

Question 2: Are there any corrections that need to be made to the initial draft potential Wilderness Inventory maps (additions, adjustments, or deletions), including the location(s) of

vegetation treatments, roads, trails, timber harvest areas, mines, recreational improvements, etc.? If so, please provide as much detail as possible to support your recommendation(s).

- *Utah has plenty of Wilderness today. We need true multiple use and no more Wilderness.*
- *YES, delete ALL draft potential Wilderness that includes roads, trails, powerlines, pipelines, historic structures, etc. That should about eliminate all of what is proposed. You should re-read: According to the Wilderness Act of 1964, Wilderness "is recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean... an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.*
- *Take out all references showing wilderness in Carbon County or on any of the adjoining HUC areas providing water to Carbon County. The Map does not show the Finn Canyon Road and its connection to the Trough Springs Road. The Map does not show the Nuck Woodard Road and its connection from Clear Creek to the Huntington Canyon road. Both are significant and important connective routes for forest management and emergency response.*
- *We have too much Wilderness*
- *I do not like the wilderness designation on any [area of the Forest].*
- *Your map of the Manti is very miss leading. I am not sure if you intentionally done this. Your inventory map of the Manti, Ferron, Price and Sanpete did not include all of the open roads within the area. This is not accurate. I pointed this out in the meeting in September and was told they would be added at a later date. Not having accurate information is very poor.*

Responses to Question 3: Which potential Wilderness areas identified on the Initial Draft Potential Wilderness Inventory maps should be carried over to the next phase (Evaluation Phase) of the Wilderness Evaluation Process? Please provide as much detail as possible, including data if available, to support your recommendation.

- *None (4 respondents)*
- *Very few areas should be carried over to the next phase of the wilderness Evaluation Process. When the wilderness review was done previously our concern was that there were very few areas that possess the solitude and remoteness characteristics. Since then you have identified unroaded areas of 5000 acres or more. Just because these parcels may be unroaded they lie within a multitude of roads and trails which should make them unsuitable due to the un-remoteness of these areas. This Forest is greatly used for agriculture and recreation with a road and trail system to support it. It is our custom and culture that has been developed through the years and we rely on these*

mountains. Our County land plan refers to this custom and culture and it provides economic stability and a way of live. We believe that very few areas should be carried over to the next phase.

- *NONE... You should re-read: According to the Wilderness Act of 1964, Wilderness "is recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean... an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.*
- *Candling Mountain south to include Horse Canyon drainage on Ferron-Price Ranger District. This area has not yet been criss-crossed with motorized trails. It contains great habitat for summering big game animals.*
- *All of those that overlay lands or watershed HUC ranges in Carbon County*
- *Your map is not correct and is not an accurate reflection therefore none should be carried over.*
- *No areas located within Sanpete County should be carried over to the evaluation phase of the Wilderness Evaluation Process.*

Responses to Question 4: Which potential Wilderness areas identified on the Initial Draft Potential Wilderness Inventory maps should not be carried over to the next phase (Evaluation Phase) of the Wilderness Evaluation Process? Please provide as much detail as possible, including data if available, to support your recommendation.

- *All. There are plenty of areas already devoid of roads that are wild and scenic. I propose maintaining all existing roads and not creating any additional roads.*
- *All of those identified should not be carried over. We do not want or need more Wilderness.*
- *None of it should be carried over. (2 respondents)*
- *... Very few areas should be carried over. Man's imprint is definitely noticeable on most of the Mant-LaSal National Forest. It has been trammelled and continues to be so. Hunting and recreation is spread all across we. There should not be many carried over.*
- *ALL... You should re-read: According to the Wilderness Act of 1964, Wilderness "is recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean... an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a*

primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

- We have a grazing permit (Cabin Hollow) near Gooseberry. We've taken our sheep up there for the summer for the past 40 years. The entire area near the Skyline Drive is used for grazing sheep and cows, camping, ATVs, hunting and snowmobiling. I don't think that area should be carried over to the next phase.*
- All of those that overlay lands or watershed HUC ranges in Carbon County*
- We need to use the land. Not lock it up to no use. I don't believe in abusing the land but it is good to use it.*
- Wilderness designation is not necessary. It limits any future use.*
- No areas located within Sanpete County should be carried over to the evaluation phase of the Wilderness Evaluation Process. The Manti Mountain has been a multiple-use forest since its destination, including: mining, timber harvest, grazing, water development, and various forms of outdoor recreation. Roads and trails cover we to provide access for the above activities. The influence of man is found throughout we.*

South Zone

In contrast to the largely anti-Wilderness sentiments of those queried in the North Zone of the Forest, respondents in the South Zone tended to have more favorable attitudes toward Wilderness, particularly respondents from the Moab and Castle Valley areas, recommending several areas in the La Sal mountains and Monticello District be carried over for consideration as Wilderness. However, much like the North Zone, the communities of Monticello and Blanding mostly opposed any potential Wilderness recommendations.

Responses to Question 1: "Are there areas smaller than 5,000 acres that you think should be considered for recommendation as Wilderness?"

- Most of the Forest meets the definition of roadlessness and has remarkable wilderness qualities in many areas over 5K acres. Though the first draft of the inventory did not consider trail use designations, areas under 5K acres must be considered for wilderness recommendations based on the narrow exclusion of trail corridors managed as non-wilderness for mountain bike (MTB) and/or motorized use.*

For example, the MTB and wilderness communities of interest on the Moab RD have agreed that areas smaller than 5K acres qualify as wilderness and advocate for such designation in Congress where non-conforming trail use exists by drawing "out" motorized and mechanized trails. The MTB community values designated wilderness as well, and they'd like to see both sides of the trail protected regardless of whether areas are 5K in size or less. It is not advisable to use motorized and mechanized trails to exclude deserving areas entirely from recommendation for wilderness as the inventory enters its next phase. Rather, communities of interest have worked together in the past to assure outstanding lands have a chance at permanent protection in Congress and can do so in the future.

The Gold Basin and South Mountain roadless areas are two such examples of areas of agreement where areas < 5K acres are supported for wilderness designation. Other such areas surely exist on the Forest, and in the spirit of collaboration, stakeholders must be given the opportunity to work together to identify areas deserving of wilderness protection once the inventory moves from this coarse stage to fine filter analysis.

- *No.*
- *Yes, I think areas smaller than 7.8 sq. miles should be considered. These areas may seem too small for a wilderness experienced but every situation is different. A smaller area of wilderness surrounded by a larger area of forest lands may still hold wilderness value. rejecting any area due to size alone is to broad a criteria. EXAMPLE: A 500 hundred acre section near a town or highway should not be considered, but a 4000 acre section of alpine forest surrounded by forest lands with a different designation should be.*
- *There are no areas within the LaSal Mountain range in my humble opinion that should be considered for recommendation as Wilderness. The mountain range in the Grand County Area (Moab) is small in nature and has been travel by man sense the late 1890's. If anything some of the early road closures should be reopen. As a land owner and hunter the public lands are limited and should remain open.*
- *My main concern is to protect sensitive species of animals and plants that are being threatened or degraded by cattle, OHV traffic, mountain bike trails, and the imported goats (sheep) that are running amok in this fragile sky island of the La Sals. Some areas may be smaller than 5K acres.*
- *No more wilderness is needed. Keep it like it is.*
- *No wilderness assessments are needed. No additional land should be designated for wilderness.*

Question 2: Are there any corrections that need to be made to the initial draft potential Wilderness Inventory maps (additions, adjustments, or deletions), including the location(s) of vegetation treatments, roads, trails, timber harvest areas, mines, recreational improvements, etc.? If so, please provide as much detail as possible to support your recommendation(s).

- *It is difficult for me to read the map for Moab online to see what has been inventoried. I do think the following areas need to be evaluated. Sinbad Ridge, Mill Creek, Beaver Creek, and on the Colorado/Utah border the square of land that is in Colorado which is often called "Little Forest." There are other areas, especially on the North side of the La Sals that are sufficiently roadless and have a unique alpine quality. The RNA has two rare plants and is now threatened by the introduction of exotic goats. Much of the alpine area has wilderness qualities and should be evaluated.*
- *The draft wilderness inventory did miss a few areas that though are not over 5K acres in size on FS lands but are part of much larger roadless areas well over 5K acres on adjacent public lands. Examples include Pinhook, Porcupine Rim, Mill Creek, and Sinbad (in CO) on the Moab RD; Wildcat Knolls in the Ferron RD (adjacent to the Fishlake); and Butler Wash in the NW corner of the Monticello RD.*
- *None noted at this time (2 respondents)*

Responses to Question 3: Which potential Wilderness areas identified on the Initial Draft Potential Wilderness Inventory maps should be carried over to the next phase (Evaluation Phase) of the Wilderness Evaluation Process? Please provide as much detail as possible, including data if available, to support your recommendation.

- *It is difficult for me to read the map for Moab online to see what has been inventoried. I do think the following areas need to be evaluated. Sinbad Ridge, Mill Creek, Beaver Creek, and on the Colorado/Utah border the square of land that is in Colorado which is often called "Little Forest." There are other areas, especially on the North side of the La Sals that are sufficiently roadless and have a unique alpine quality. The RNA has two rare plants and is now threatened by the introduction of exotic goats. Much of the alpine area has wilderness qualities and should be evaluated. I have not done studies in these areas, but they are basically roadless, have magnificent views, and are untrammelled. Utah lags behind other western states in terms of wilderness areas and these are great areas. In terms of the alpine areas they are very rare in Utah.*
- *This phrasing of this question is troubling - this is not an area open to public debate. According to established agency policy, all areas that meet the criteria in the inventory phase must be carried over to the evaluation phase. Per FSH 1909.2, 72.1: Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics: "The Interdisciplinary Team shall evaluate areas, which must include all lands identified in the inventory (sec. 71 of this Handbook), to determine potential suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System using criteria included in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2(c)." Note the use of the words "shall" and "must." This means all areas identified in the inventory, plus the areas identified by the public (areas under 5K acres on NFS lands that are directly adjacent to other roadless public lands as mentioned earlier in this survey) MUST carry forward in to the evaluation phase.*
- *For the wilderness evaluation phase, FCM [Friend's of Cedar Mesa] strongly urges that Arch Canyon, Hammond Canyon, and a combined Allen Canyon & Chippean Ridge be recommended for wilderness designation. There are many deserving areas in the Moab-Monticello District and at the very least, these three areas should be recommended because of their remoteness, wilderness characteristics and archaeology.*
- *None. Even the existing wilderness Dark Canyon doesn't meet the legal definition of a wilderness because it contains roads, cabins, hay, fields, corrals and an old oil well.*
- *YES, The "South Mountain Group" on the south end of the La Sal Mountains. This is generally the area from La Sal Pass in the north to the Lackey Fan in the south (near the town site of "new" La Sal). Pack Creek in the west to La Sal Creek in the east. The area is basically roadless. The only exception is the little-used lackey basin road that dead ends and a small dead end road off the pack creek road. I have recreated in that area for over 25 years and it is the view I have from my front door. It sees little use except for grazing and hunting in the fall. It is my understanding that neither of these activities would be effected by wilderness designation.*

The town of Moab has become an adventure tourism hub. Unfortunately there are few choices in our area for a wilderness experience. This area would be ideal. As usage and development increases wilderness quality lands diminish.

- *None*

Responses to Question 4: Which potential Wilderness areas identified on the Initial Draft Potential Wilderness Inventory maps should not be carried over to the next phase (Evaluation Phase) of the Wilderness Evaluation Process? Please provide as much detail as possible, including data if available, to support your recommendation.

- *...This phrasing of this question is troubling - this is not an area open to public debate. According to established agency policy, all areas that meet the criteria in the inventory phase must be carried over to the evaluation phase. Per FSH 1909.2, 72.1: Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics: "The Interdisciplinary Team shall evaluate areas, which must include all lands identified in the inventory (sec. 71 of this Handbook), to determine potential suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System using criteria included in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2(c)." Note the use of the words "shall" and "must." This means all areas identified in the inventory, plus the areas identified by the public (areas under 5K acres on NFS lands that are directly adjacent to other roadless public lands as mentioned earlier in this survey) MUST carry forward in to the evaluation phase.*
- *All*
- *None noted at this time (2 respondents)*
- *All areas currently identified for potential wilderness should be eliminated. No new wilderness is needed.*

In addition to the comments we received on our Wilderness Inventory surveys, we received a few memorandums from governmental and non-governmental entities detailing their desires for the Wilderness evaluation process. Instead of placing those comments above, we decided to attach them to this document as Attachments. The reason for doing so was to ensure these memorandums were viewed as a complete response, as their authors intended, instead of extracting passages and potentially taking them out of context. These documents also included comments on other issues, though we decided to add them to the Wilderness section, since opinions on the matter featured heavily in the comments.

- Friend's of Cedar Mesa, Wilderness Evaluation Comments (Attachment 35)
- State of Utah Wilderness Evaluation Comments (Attachment 36)
- Manti-La Sal National Forest Wilderness Comments, Dan Kent (Attachment 37)
- Utah Farm Bureau Plan Revision Comments (Attachment 38 and 49)
- Diane Ackerman Plan Revision Comments (Attachment 46)
- Pace Lake to John Brown Canyon Connector, A Proposal to the Manti-La Sal National Forest and Grand Junction BLM Field Office (Attachment 45)
- Larson Family Plan Revision Comments (Attachment 44)
- Carbon County Plan Revision Comments (Attachment 43)
- Emery County Plan Revision Comments (Attachment 42)

Potential Wilderness Data Discrepancies and Recommendations

As noted above, we received several comments about potential discrepancies in our Inventory data. These potential discrepancies are highlighted (again) to demonstrate our acknowledgement of them, our commitment to ensuring the use of accurate information, and to assist our resource specialists in analyzing the veracity of these claims and making corrections where needed.

- *The Map does not show the Finn Canyon Road and its connection to the Trough Springs Road. The Map does not show the Nuck Woodard Road and its connection from Clear Creek to the Huntington Canyon road. Both are significant and important connective routes for forest management and emergency response.*
- *Your map of the Manti is very miss leading. I am not sure if you intentionally done this. Your inventory map of the Manti, Ferron, Price and Sanpete did not include all of the open roads within the area. This is not accurate. I pointed this out in the meeting in September and was told they would be added at a later date. Not having accurate information is very poor.*
- *The draft wilderness inventory did miss a few areas that though are not over 5K acres in size on FS lands but are part of much larger roadless areas well over 5K acres on adjacent public lands. Examples include Pinhook, Porcupine Rim, Mill Creek, and Sinbad (in CO) on the Moab RD; Wildcat Knolls in the Ferron RD (adjacent to the Fishlake); and Butler Wash in the NW corner of the Monticello RD.*
- *... Include citizen's roadless inventories and wilderness proposals in the planning process, notably Friends of the Abajos/Redrock Forests' 1999 Citizen's Roadless Inventory. It was done with UWC guidelines (the Citizen's Redrock Wilderness Proposal on BLM lands) and also includes evaluations and field checks of vegetation treatments, including timber sales, chaining, rollerchopping, etc. Note that during the inventory, it was found that a significant number of projects proposed on the Forest were never taken to implementation, yet those projects were mapped and have been used as a basis to exclude wilderness and roadless consideration on the District. The citizen's inventory corrects these mistakes, and includes thousands of documentation photos. Photos and digitized maps can be provided, GCT also has the digital data and will be presenting it in the citizen's forest plan alternative, something I was working on back in the early 2000's when the Manti-La Sal revision was initiated, then aborted.*

Species of Conservation Concern

A key component of the September open houses was the disclosure of our initial draft SCC lists with the public. In sharing these plant and non-plant SCC lists, we asked the public for its feedback, specifically whether they wanted to add or delete species from our proposed list. To do this, we disseminated a survey at the open houses and posted it online to our forest planning webpage. The survey posed the following questions.

- Question 1: Given the SCC criteria and guidelines mentioned in the SCC overview, if you feel a species should be added or removed from the list, please list the species and

any supporting data to support its listing or removal (remember, in order to be listed the species must be present in the Forest, and data must exist for why it should be listed).

- Question 2: Do you have data concerning any of the species on our Draft Potential SCC List? If so, please explain below, providing the source of the data and why it is relevant.

Like the Wilderness comments, we separated responses geographically, by north and south zone. In addition to the reasoning stated under the Wilderness section, we choose to separate SCC comments in this manner because of the great differences between habitats and species in the north and south zones. In total, we received 15 survey responses.

Table 3 - Recommended SCC Additions and Deletions Based on Public Input

Recommended SCC Additions from Public Comments	Recommended SCC Deletions and those that should not be considered from Public Comments
Pika	Cutthroat Trout
<i>Astragalus isleyi</i>	Peregrine Falcon
Greenback Cutthroat Trout	Sage Grouse
	All species

North Zone

Respondents in the North Zone of the Forest did not favor adding additional species to the proposed SCC list, mostly because of the perception that more SCC species would lead to more 'micromanagement' of the Forest and more restrictions. On the contrary, one respondent proposed removing all the species from the list, while another recommended the removal of the Peregrine Falcon and Cutthroat Trout. One respondent alluded to their desire to use the Utah Division of Wildlife list.

Responses to question 1: Given the SCC criteria and guidelines mentioned in the SCC overview, if you feel a species should be added or removed from the list, please list the species and any supporting data to support its listing or removal

- *All species should be removed. These lead to micro- management versus continued multiple use.*
- *The peregrine Falcon and the cutthroat trout are doing fine and should be removed from the list.*
- *I tend to follow the recommendations of the UDWR. This includes the determination that Sage Grouse is not a SCC on any forest lands in Carbon County.*

Responses to question 2: "Do you have data concerning any of the species on the Forest's Draft Potential SCC List?"

- *The only data I have is that this micromanagement lead[s] to closures and restrictions on forest use and multiple use management philosophy.*
- *UDWR information supported by on the ground review and documentation.*

South Zone

In contrast to the North Zone, respondents from the South Zone sought the addition of other species to our proposed SCC list, especially the Pika in the La Sal Mountains, *Astragalus Isleyi*, and Greenback Cutthroat Trout. Respondents also expressed their concern over the data requirement for adding species to the list, specifically the stipulation that data must exist indicating the species is present on the Forest and under stress. Some said this was an unfair threshold, arguing that the absence of information did not mean the species was not at risk. Instead, they lamented, the lack of data likely is a result of insufficient monitoring resources on behalf of the Forest Service.

Responses to question 1: Given the SCC criteria and guidelines mentioned in the SCC overview, if you feel a species should be added or removed from the list, please list the species and any supporting data to support its listing or removal

- *Curious as to why Astragalus isleyi is not on the list. It has a G1 ranking ExH and data is being collected on this species both by USFS and the Utah Natural Heritage Program.*
- *It seems like pikas should be added to the list. Though I am not aware of any data on pikas in the Manti-La Sal NF, there is clearly data throughout the Western US indicating a decline of the species in many locations (two links to research, though not necessarily the most relevant research: <http://nature.nps.gov/parkscience/index.cfm?ArticleID=705>; https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259754601_Determinants_of_pika_population_density_vs_occupancy_in_the_Southern_Rocky_Mountains).*
- *I think the requirement that there should be available data indicating cause for concern should be interpreted widely, in a geographical sense. Further, if lower quality vegetation correlates with more stressed pikas, as the latter link suggests, perhaps we should include pikas on the list because clearly our alpine vegetation is being negatively affected by the proliferation of non-native mountain goats, in the La Sal Mountains.*
- *I want Pika to be listed. There seem to be many fewer that in years past. I know that the state has been doing studies on the pika in the La Sal Mountains and that information should be incorporated into this plan.*
- *I believe that the American pika is a potential addition to the SCC list. Although pikas are currently maintaining populations in the La Sals, they will likely be affected as drought and climate warming continue. Pika populations have already disappeared in other mountain habitats in the Southwest.*
- *There is habitat for more than two plant species of conservation concern on the MLSNF.*
- *Greenback Cutthroat Trout in the La Sals - Known on Forest*
- *Although designation of wilderness on a visionary scale will inherently protect wildlife therein as best as can be done in a time of global climate change, the FS should also track all species suggested as potential species of concern. Region 4 has their list, the coalition of environmental non-profits, including the Grand Canyon Trust, has theirs, and The Center for Biological Diversity has theirs. Most important are those species at risk from continued global warming and EXOTIC MOUNTAIN GOATS INTRODUCED BY THE UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES, which is driving pikas right off the top of the mountain, and is threatening a plethora of high alpine sensitive plants, currently being monitored by the Wild Utah Project. In addition, it would be irresponsible*

not to address species that the FS does not know enough about to evaluate their needs. The FS must consider for Species of Concern all species recommended for such that they have insufficient information for.

Responses to question 2: Do you have data concerning any of the species on the Forest's Draft Potential SCC List?

- *I do not have data but spend many days above treeline every summer and have just observed far fewer pikas.*

Assessment

The final survey we distributed at the September open houses focused on gathering information to support our Assessment Report. Covering all resource areas, the Assessment Report is intended to identify the existing conditions, trends, and desirable conditions for we. To gather information in support of this report, the Assessment Survey asked respondents a series of questions:

- Question 1: Is anything missing from the list of topics, resource areas, indicators, scales of analysis, and/or data sources listed on the previous page? If so, what is missing and why should it be included?
- Question 2: Are the analysis areas appropriate (why/why not)? Is there anything you feel has been missed (what/why)?
- Question 3: What trends have you noticed regarding any of the topics listed, and over what scale (time, space, etc.) have you noticed them? Are there indicators you can think of that would help show these trends?
- Question 4: In reference to the draft system drivers and stressors above, are there any system drivers and/or stressors we missed? Of those identified on the draft lists, are there system drivers and/or stressors that should be removed?
- Question 5: Are there additional changes or influences (natural or man-made) you've noticed on the Forest that should be considered in the Plan Revision Assessment Phase?

Overall, 13 respondents submit the Assessment survey.

North Zone

Comments from the North Zone emphasized the importance of socioeconomic considerations in the Forest Planning Process, as well as the need to consider the drastic ecological differences between the North and South zones. Several respondents noted concern over the Forest potentially minimizing such factors—including the economic importance of grazing and recreation—in favor of environmental protection considerations. Separately, several comments focused on the public's worries over the implications and potential of catastrophic fire on the North Zone.

Responses to Question 1: Is anything missing from the list of topics, resource areas, indicators, scales of analysis, and/or data sources listed on the previous page? If so, what is missing and why should it be included?

- *To identify the top priorities of use that these lands provide to the local area is paramount. This issue has been the same for centuries. Watershed hydrologic unit boundaries would also be important. The version of the map put on this survey was too small to even read the legend. I had our GIS print out a large scale to be able to identify issues.*
- *Range/Grazing Scales. Consider separating the southern area (Moab Monticello) of the Forest from the northern area (Carbon, Emery and Sanpete) in determining Desired Conditions and Standards and Guidelines. The geology and resulting soils are vastly different (Volcanic laccolith mountains in the south verses Sedimentary formations of different soil chemistry in the north). Precipitation in the south is dominated by summer monsoons, while in the north by winter snowpack.*

Data Sources 1. The survey lists CRMPs (County Resource Management Plans) as the sole Data Source. Although it is encouraging that the County Plans are recognized, they do not contain vegetation data. We have vast amounts of vegetation data (as the Indicators lists) on Ground Cover Percentage and Vegetation Species Composition and Diversity. This data should be analyzed and used in this Forest Plan process.

...With respect to the CRMP's, the Emery County Plan (6.2) states that the "County will actively participate as a cooperating agency in land use planning processes" and that MOU's are in place to do so (8.8). The County Plan states (9.2) that the Public Lands Council (or its officially designated subcommittees) "coordinate with federal and state agencies on matters affecting livestock grazing and farming on all federal and state managed and regulated lands." It would be prudent to include a member of the Emery County Public Lands Council on the Resource Team that determines the Desired Conditions of the plant communities, and sets the Standards and Guidelines. If the Grazers are to be held to meeting these Standards, they should have a say in setting them.

...Consider including historical livestock use of the grazing allotments to correlate with the improvement and Current Condition of Terrestrial Ecosystems. In the 1960's and early 1970's, Range Analysis was conducted throughout the Manti LaSal Forest. Vegetation Types were mapped, species composition was determined, current condition and production capability was established. Pastures were fenced and Rest Rotation Grazing systems were applied on all grazing allotments. Extensive range improvements were also implemented to increase forage production for livestock and wildlife, wildlife habitat and watershed stabilization. At the beginning of this process, grazing permittees took 40-60% cuts in livestock numbers and time, with the promise the grazing use would be restored upon the increase in forage production from the improvements and grazing system (as noted in the 1984 Forest Plan). Each Allotment Plan has its history. This could be compiled on a Forest Scale.

Vegetation Data Sources... Include the photo comparison books by Prevedel, Durrant and Johnson 2005, and John Neibergal. The Forest Service has a mandate to use the best science available in making management decisions. Other Federal and State

agencies have vegetation data that may be useful in supplementing Forest Service Data. NRCS Ecological Site Descriptions provide good data on plant communities in the Wyoming big sagebrush, pinyon/juniper, mountain brush, and mountain big sagebrush plant communities. Their accompanying State and Transition Models are the best available science on the response of these plant communities to various stresses and disturbances. The Utah DWR has a consistent data set in their Range Transects in critical wildlife habitat sites throughout the state.

...Acknowledge the Long Term Condition and Trend data collected by Bob Thompson and put forth an effort to utilize what you can. Wildlife/Aquatics Indicators Include historical populations for deer and especially elk. [Also] Include a discussion on the historical conflicts of elk herd size and the caps that have been agreed upon to reduce conflicts with other uses. Elk numbers must be regulated, just as other uses are.

Responses to Question 2: Are the analysis areas appropriate (why/why not)? Is there anything you feel has been missed (what/why)?

- Carbon County emailed to the local office in Price a comment letter outlining our major expectations for this planning effort. We expect that many property owners, business owners and the local public that derives a living will expect that in this planning effort our needs are provided for. The amount of lands under Forest Service management is very small yet most important to the present and future viability of our community.*

Responses to Question 3: What trends have you noticed regarding any of the topics listed, and over what scale (time, space, etc.) have you noticed them? Are there indicators you can think of that would help show these trends?

- So far, the only trends I have observed by the agency comments and survey topics is the penchant of the USFS to consider the environmental consequences side of the equation and not the impacts to the human environment. It will be necessary for both to be considered equally in scoping, the creation of the range of alternatives and given highest consideration in the decision making process as without the human equation considered the addition management will not be funded.*
- ...Trends Vegetation Indicators – Presence of invasive species. Invasive weeds, especially musk thistle, have increased dramatically over the last 10 years. Invasive weeds are the greatest threat to the ecological integrity and biodiversity of plant communities on the Forest. The current approach to controlling invasive weeds is woefully inadequate. The biological wildfire approach developed by Steve Dewey should be adopted by the Forest Service. Adequate resources should be allocated for their control and management priority be given them. Indicators would obviously include mapping of their infestations and monitoring their size to set priorities and measure success in controlling them.*

Responses to Question 4: In reference to the draft system drivers and stressors above, are there any system drivers and/or stressors we missed? Of those identified on the draft lists, are there system drivers and/or stressors that should be removed?

- More consideration of roads and trails the identifiers only addressed it in access. What about the national roads system and the local road needs?*

Responses to Question 5: Are there additional changes or influences (natural or man-made) you've noticed on the Forest that should be considered in the Plan Revision Assessment Phase?

- *The loss of live conifer and need to prevent catastrophic fire on the watershed is a big issue with our local citizens. The impacts of the cost to fight fires is important to our citizens at a national level. Access to fight fires and the need to reduce biomass is an environmental concern.*

South Zone

Similar to the comments we received during the July and August open houses, respondents expressed their concern over watershed degradation—due to grazing near springs and municipal watershed—and the State of Utah's introduction of Mountain Goats in the La Sal Mountains, which some argued is threatening the sensitive Peale Natural Research Area. Comments also noted an uptick in recreation—particularly mountain biking, hunting, and ATV/UTV use—that has degraded sensitive ecosystems, particularly in the La Sal Mountains. Others noted the negative impact climate change is having on biodiversity.

Responses to Question 1: Is anything missing from the list of topics, resource areas, indicators, scales of analysis, and/or data sources listed on the previous page? If so, what is missing and why should it be included?

- *1) Municipal Watershed Protection: Municipal watershed should be designated and protected at a higher level. Mike Diem will respect us but that has not always been the case. Why should this even be an issue??? It is time for a change on this topic in the Forest Plan. 2) Springs protection to potential.*
- *Look like everything I could think of is covered.*

Responses to Question 2: Are the analysis areas appropriate (why/why not)? Is there anything you feel has been missed (what/why)?

- *We feel the areas of analysis are appropriate and would like to see great emphasis and thought given to cultural resource and heritage resources in the Manti-La Sal National Forest, particularly in the Moab-Monticello District.*
- *Wilderness: For Mill Creek, Gold Basin, and Sinbad Area*
- *Don't think so.*

Responses to Question 3: What trends have you noticed regarding any of the topics listed, and over what scale (time, space, etc.) have you noticed them? Are there indicators you can think of that would help show these trends?

- *The mountain goats are proliferating quickly, since they were introduced a couple years ago. Though their numbers aren't that huge, the alpine areas of the La Sals are small in total. I have seen the goats multiple times in my weekend summer-fall trips to the La Sals. In June 2016, I saw a group of at least 20 goats, several of them young ones, on*

one ridge near Talking Mountain, within the Mount Peale Research Natural Area. I have seen smaller groups two other times since then, in different areas of the La Sals.

I've also noticed a huge increase in mountain biking in the La Sals, of course. Efforts to separate user groups, such as near Warner Lake are appreciated. Keeping mountain bikes out of some areas, to give both wildlife and hikers a break, is also appreciated.

- *Since 2001, I have noticed a dramatic increase in recreational use in the La Sals, and experienced increased conflicts between uses. In particular, the sheer numbers of mountain bikers now using popular hiking trails have eroded the trails into deep grooves, prompting hikers to create new trails next to the old trails. While most bikers are considerate of hikers, I've had to leap off the trail to avoid being hit by reckless, speeding riders along the Burro Pass trail from Warner Lake and the Moonlight Meadows/Clark Lake trail.*

Recreational shooting and running packs of hounds also are potentially hazardous to other users in the La Sals, especially with so many more people now recreating in the same small areas.

Winter use has also escalated. The Geyser Pass Road and winter parking area get chaotic on weekends. Cars park at the foot of the sledding hill, blocking traffic. Sledders shoot across the road. People tow their kids up the road and around the parking lot behind their vehicles or snowmobiles. It's an accident waiting to happen.

- *Global warming: Vegetation on MLSNF has been drying over the past 25 years.*
- *Exotic goats are impacting the Mt Peale Research Natural Area and surrounding alpine area – wallowing, grazing, browsing, trampling cushion plants and sensitive plants.*
- *Monocultures of *Iris missouriensis* are establishing throughout wet/mesic meadows of La Sals; eliminating biodiversity, reducing forage area. The assessment should estimate the proportion of wet meadows on the La Sal Mountains and elsewhere in the MLNF.*
- *Livestock grazing is frequently associated with diverse, adverse impacts on riparian areas; wetlands, ponds, and lakes; physical stream channel, aspen, and sagebrush communities.*
- *Annual, heavy livestock grazing occurs during similar times in the growing season on most allotments.*
- *Most pastures in the Manti-La Sal NF have been grazed every year during the past ten years.*
- *Global warming: rising temperatures, thus functionally less water, though precipitation ups and downs are not predicted to change much. The MLNF should indicate what climate change information sources we are using to assess what change has already happened; what change is predicted to happen on the Forest. Global warming impacts are cumulative with ungulate grazing and other activities. The MLSNF should utilize the final CEQ guidance on climate change in its assessment of global warming impacts on the Forest and on activities on the Forest.*
- *Beaver are a keystone species for water management, riparian expansion, reconnection of streams with floodplains, support of biodiversity, subirrigation of meadows.*
- *Nearly all cattle use is on slopes <20% and that is a minority of the land in MLSNF.*

- *Many springs on the MLSNF are (a) unprotected, (b) accessible to livestock and trampled; (c) fenced minimally so that the adjacent riparian meadows are heavily grazed and depauperate in native species.*
- *Willow diversity and multi-height community structure are depleted along many riparian areas; in moist meadows.*
- *Livestock impacts as described in the Fishlake, Dixie, and Manti-La Sal 2014 Initial Review of Livestock Grazing Effects on Select Ecosystems of the Dixie, Fishlake and Manti-La Sal National Forests can be often seen on the MLSNF.*
- *Hunter salt licks in springs/mesic meadows draw ungulates to riparian areas already impacted by ungulates; MLSNF should estimate how many springs are affected.*
- *Protection of sage grouse habitats (e.g., late summer brood-rearing, winter, some year-round) will be important.*
- *The MLSNF should indicate what is known/not known about native bee, bumblebee, and other pollinator habitats and populations on the Forest.*
- *I have noticed that most springs in the Manti-La Sal NF are impacted negatively by cattle. Things are slowly improving in the La Sals, with significant community involvement, where exclosures are built and off-site water provided.*
- *Only noticed increased hunting pressure on deer, elk, bear, and other larger predators such as coyote, mountain lions, etc. since I have lived in Moab (18 years). Also increased OHV use and camping--dispersed campers--usually don't pick up their trash.*

Responses to Question 4: In reference to the draft system drivers and stressors above, are there any system drivers and/or stressors we missed? Of those identified on the draft lists, are there system drivers and/or stressors that should be removed?

- *I did not see a reference to FS clearcutting of pinyon-juniper listed as a stressor, yet there is a recent huge clearcut on South Mesa in the La Sals. Perhaps this is a response to the stressor listed as tree encroachment. I'm not sure if the encroachment or the clearcutting is the stressor.*
- *Climate change, drought, and increased temperatures should stay included as stressors. Wild and domestic ungulates are stressors. Thank you for including them.*
- *Looks good to me.*

Responses to Question 5: Are there additional changes or influences (natural or man-made) you've noticed on the Forest that should be considered in the Plan Revision Assessment Phase?

- *When open house meetings are held, the public really can't ask too many questions to be fully informed of the pro's and con's of what the new plan will mean. I would favor having Forest service talk about the plan where we as the public could ask questions about what the new plan means and how it affects us locally instead of this free for all that is going on when you come to town.*
- *Introduction of exotic Rocky Mountain goats into the La Sals is a man-made stressor that is affecting alpine tundra vegetation. The goats are increasing in numbers and have*

moved into the Mt. Peale Research Natural Area, an area rich in endemic and rare plants, which was set aside to be kept free of human manipulation.

Public Participation Survey

Initially released at our open houses in July and August, the Public Participation survey was intended to collect information about trends on the Forest, as well as how people use the Forest and the areas they frequent. In addition, the survey was intended to collect information about existing conditions and the public's communication preferences related to Forest Plan Revision.

This report does not highlight the latter two topics—communication preferences and desired level of public involvement—and instead focuses on use type, area of use, and trend data. We left out the data about communication preferences and the public's desired level of involvement in the process because almost half of respondents did not answer these questions. Thus, the data is not an accurate representation of reality. Nevertheless, we intend to use the data internally to inform public outreach; the omitted data is also available from the Forest upon request.

It is also worth noting that the data from questions 1 and 3 (listed below) include data we collected from *both* the July/August *and* September open houses, while the data for question 2 was derived solely from the September open houses. The reason we chose to keep a running tally of the data concerning Forest use (question 1) and areas of use (question 3) is because the data becomes more representative of reality as the data set increases, assuming we are not receiving multiple surveys from the same individuals. Among the questions asked on the Public Participation Survey were:

- Question 1: How do you use the Forest?
- Question 2: Have you noticed any trends (desirable or undesirable) on the Forest regarding wildlife, habitat, or the natural environment?
- Question 3: What areas of the Manti-La Sal National Forest do you use?

Table 4 - Responses to Question 1: How do you use the Forest?

Activity	Percentage	# of Responses
Hiking	76%	74
Mineral Extraction	8%	8
Timber	12%	12
Hunting	49%	48
ATV/OHV	58%	56
Horseback Riding	24%	23
Alpine Skiing/Cross-Country Skiing/Snowboarding/ Snowshoeing	23%	22
Biking	38%	37
Fishing	56%	54
Rock Climbing	9%	9
Grazing	20%	19
Snowmobiling	16%	16
Photography	57%	55
Kayaking	3%	3
Scientific Research	13%	13
Camping	82%	80
Permittee	9%	9
Cultural/Traditional Use	10%	10
Fuel Wood Gathering	40%	39
Sightseeing	64%	62
Total Respondents:		97

The following sections detail answers to the question:

- Question 2: Have you noticed any trends (desirable or undesirable) on the Forest regarding wildlife, habitat, or the natural environment?

North Zone

Questions 2 responses from the North Zone focused on the increased recreation use in the Price, Ferron, and Sanpete Districts. Similar to the comments we received in the North Zone during the July and August meetings, the public noted concern over what it perceived as the underutilization of timber resources on the Forest.

However, compared to the last round of comments, respondents on the Public Participation Survey seemed to provide more positive feedback about Forest management, particularly recreation. This does not necessarily indicate a trend, given the small number of comments collected, though it is worth mentioning nonetheless.

Biodiversity

- *...On re-seeded range, a re-emergence of Sage brush on seeded grass areas.*

Climate Change

- *...Obviously, water has been depleted due to drought and climate change. Creeks that once were fisheries are now nearly dry.*

Grazing

- *...I appreciate the willingness of our Forest Service to make year-to-year accommodations and adjustments in grazing. I don't see the willingness to make proactive long-term alterations. For example, changes in grazing pasture configurations when water sources change.*
- *The limited use of grazing is also a concern. Grazing is a useful tool to manage we. It seems that special interest groups have a foot hold on government decision making, this a very concerning to me. I am for multiple use for the public.*
- *Seems to be too many Cattle up Manti Canyon. Grass is gone and all laid down.*

Forest Management

- *Over all, resource is improving.*
- *In the last 20 years recreation has taken a huge spotlight in the scheme of things, which is great, but don't let that over shadow other like Ranchers and Timber men who have been trying to take care of their renewable interests for over a century. Please don't encourage growth and support in some areas while trying to cut and decline support and numbers in others aspects.*

Recreation, Access, Travel Management

- *Recreational use of the Forest has increased many times over in the last thirty years. Multiple use of the Forest is a good thing but camping sites need more monitoring on length of time by individuals allowing more people the opportunity to use the better sites.*
- *More damage from recreation, camping, ATV, etc.*
- *Roads such as the one from Indianola to north skyline need to be properly maintained or closed.*
- *...4 wheelers who leave roads and cause damage in a couple of areas.*
- *...Despite abuse in some areas, old roads are not used as much in others and so traffic has been reduced in out of the way places.*
- *We have really enjoyed the well maintained ATV trails on the Arapeen system.*

Timber

- *Underutilization of the timber on the Forest is a HUGE concern to me. The mismanagement of the beetle killed timber is a disgrace. It should be managed and harvested to avoid the unnecessary tax burden to fight preventable fires.*

Wildlife

- *...Increased in predators, i.e. coyotes and introduced bears. This has contributed to fewer fawn numbers (observable) and areas which grazers have trouble getting animals to stay.*
- *More damage from elk to water and other improvement[s].*
- *We have not seen any signs of negative impacts to wildlife in the areas of concern.*
- *Hunting Deer and Elk in the Manti Canyon the last few years has been very poor.*

South Zone

Again, much like the comments we received from the South Zone in July and August, particularly from those in Moab, the public noted its concern over the negative impacts of grazing on watersheds, springs, and vegetation. Another similarity with earlier comments was the concern over the introduction of mountain goats to the La Sal Mountains and negative implications of heightened recreation on the Forest, particularly mountain bikers riding too fast and the loudness of ATV/UTVs.

An important distinction, however, is that sentiments in the Monticello and Blanding area of the South Zone were in favor of increased recreation and grazing and indeed lamented the closing of trails in the area. These drastic departures underscore the very different socioeconomic and ideological differences between user groups on the South Zone.

Climate Change

- *Certainly global warming is also having an impact—more rain than snow, drought, earlier snow melt, and dust on the snow... We should be very concerned that our forests will be resilient in the prospect of global warming.*

Grazing

- *Also it seems grazing of cattle has ruined any of the water bodies. There are ruinous effects of cattle grazing everywhere!*
- *Overgrazing leading to native vegetation conversion, soil compaction, erosion, loss of soil infiltration/permeability, disproportionate composition of increases, stream bank and associated riparian area trampling. This has long term negative impacts on watershed health and water quality/supply.*

- *Livestock manure in camping spots (car and backpack) to the extent that setting up a tent is almost impossible.*
- *Undesirable: ... grazing in vegetation...*
- *Many areas (meadows, springs, streams, etc.) are being destroyed by cattle grazing activity.*
- *...Fences intended to keep cattle out of Brumley Creek in the La Sals need better maintenance. I often see cattle roaming around up there.*

Forest Management

- *I want the Forest Service to take issue with the state about the mountain goats. It is your job to protect the Mt. Peale NRA. Please do it. We have all commented before about this.*
- *All areas of the Forest need proper management. The primary reason the Forest Service was created was to protect watersheds, minimize flooding, and limit impacts to riparian areas and healthy ecosystems.*
- *Lack of FS funding to perform data collection and monitoring in all management sectors.*
- *Undesirable: ...too much use of a limited resource.*
- *I see improved conditions on the La Sal and Monticello Districts. I also see a trend in Forest management to lean away from multiple use and going stronger towards single uses. Too much unnecessary closure of existing roads and trails. Forest Service does a poor job in representing motorized recreation, always claiming it must close roads because of resource damage. Most of the damage could be easily mitigated without closing use.*

Minerals

- *No mineral extraction.*

Recreation, Access, Travel Management

- *I am concerned with the increase use of ATVs. It is loud! They can be heard from many of the peaks. This makes it hard to determine areas with wilderness qualities. And an up-to-date ground truth roadless inventory needs to be done to know what can truly qualify as wilderness. I think all the new trails are beautiful but there are enough.*
- *Increasing number of recreational visitors--especially use of motorized vehicles--ATV's and UTV's--which have huge impacts (negative) on sensitive and riparian areas. Loss of quiet and peace in the Forest has been the result.*
- *Closing roads that don't need to be closed—roads that have been open for 50 years or more—there is no need for this.*
- *The only thing I've noticed was lots of roads being closed for no apparent reason. These roads have been around and used for decades. There is no good, valid reason to close them off to the public.*

- *Increase in recreational users motorized and mountain biking leading to overcrowding, noise in many areas as well as trail deterioration.*
- *Undesirable: ...speeding bikes on steep tails...shooting indiscriminately across roads and trails... Desirable: 1) some really good trail work; 2) restrooms and signage.*
- *...Mountain bike trails are too pervasive; should be kept out of sensitive wildlife habitat. The pavement on the loop road is dangerous and completely shabby. ATV use should be curbed or made seasonal. Road needs to be plowed in winter.*
- *It seems to me that littering increases with all the hunts.*
- *The closing of roads and other areas that we have used for years. The lack of maintenance on roads that are still used*
- *Older existing road closures are making me feel less welcome to enjoy areas previously and currently used.*
- *We have noticed that the Forest Service forest planning and travel management planning is significantly reducing the number of and quality of OHV recreational opportunities at a time when this need is great and growing.*

Timber

- *I am concerned with the very visible clear cut near the Warner Lake turnoff. It seems like overkill.*
- *Letting wood be cut anywhere on the mountain is really good. There shouldn't be a restriction on where wood gathering can be. Anywhere wood is gathered is good in helping to take care of the mountain and reduce the spread of fire.*

Water

- *I really worry that our watersheds are being threatened.*

Wildlife

- *I am also troubled by the threats to animal life in the mountains—it is shocking that the natural predators are being hunted, trapped, poisoned, etc. to extinction. Why does the cougar hunt seem to increase every year?! Why is there still a \$50 bounty on coyotes?! Why do more and more deer need to come into Moab and Spanish Valley to forage?! The mountains and forests are places I love. They must be managed more carefully and responsibly*
- *There are significant more coyotes on the Forest. These are killing other wildlife.*
- *Stagnation of forage foods for bear - e.g. oak acorn.*
- *Cougar/bear hunter camps with poorly managed dogs (La Sal unit).*
- *Undesirable: 1) Rocky mountain goats in RNA...*
- *The mountain goats are out of control and should not be allowed. Destroying sensitive flora.*

- ...*Remove the mountain goats.*

Table 5 - Answer to Question 3: Which areas of the Forest do you use?

Area	Percentage	No. of Responses
Price District	51.09%	47
Ferron District	53.26%	49
Sanpete District	53.26%	49
Moab District	54.35%	50
Monticello District	54.35%	50
Total Respondents		92

Miscellaneous Comments

Over the course of the past few months, we received a number Forest Plan-related comments via email and regular postal mail. Similar to the comments we received on the Public Participation survey, we categorized these miscellaneous inputs into resource areas. However, unlike the previous sections, we did not separate the miscellaneous comments by Forest zone because we were unable to determine the geographic origin of many of the comments. In total, we received 15 miscellaneous comments via email and postal mail.

North Zone

Miscellaneous comments from the North Zone highlighted a concern over access limitation and the threat of catastrophic fire. For the first time in the planning process, however, public comments from the North Zone indicated a desire for local government entities to participate in the planning process as cooperating agencies, particularly local water conservation Districts, a positive sign of community awareness of and engagement in the planning process. Evident in the comments was a special generational and social connection North Zone users have with the Forest.

- *As a private citizen who owns property within the boundaries of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, I feel strongly that I should have access to my private property whenever I desire to go there. The current ""seasonal access"" restrictions have proved to be increasingly problematic. I feel strongly that I ought not to have to beg, cajole, or resort to threats in order to have access to my own property. Current restrictions are unacceptable to me as a private landowner...*

I have been traveling the road from SR31 into my property just past Miller Flat Reservoir since approximately 1948, and I believe that my experience and common sense ought to dictate when I travel that road, NOT some individual sitting in an office with no prior experience nor personal buy-in to our mountain property. We do not travel off from the main road—having no desire beyond accessing our own property. Please consider this when setting policies in regards to restricting access.

I would like to also voice my opinion in regards to expanding ATV trails. The expansion of such trails would serve to increase the volume of ATV's, which proves problematic in trying to maintain our privacy on our own property. Furthermore, since it appears that the Forest Service is unable (or unwilling) to police the activities of ATV riders in the present scenario, it seems ill-advised to expand such usage. We have personally witnessed an incident in which a Forest Service vehicle drove past an ATV which was off-roading and didn't even acknowledge that such behavior was happening, but soon afterward, there was a barricade placed in the location where the incident occurred. Such behavior causes one to question the intent of Forest Service personnel.

- I am very anxious to have local cooperation as well as coordination. I remind the USDA FS that we are under the Dept. of Agriculture whose goal should be to provide food, fiber, and other products for public consumption. Recreation is important, but is no more important than grazing, wood harvesting, or use of any mineral or other resource.*
- As this forest plan is re-written, I ask that local agencies are invited to be coordinator and allowed to sit at the table. The San Rafael Conservation wishes to be a coordinator in this process as we are duly elected to represent the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of the Forest.*
- The concern highest on our minds has to do with control of prescribed burns. We recognize that a prescribed burn, at times, is a necessary tool for the management of the Forest. Our concern is that if such burns are necessary, that sufficient resources be deployed to minimize the risk of a fire escaping the designated burn perimeter to the extent that the possibility is extremely remote.*

One of our families was present the week that the Jungle burn escaped its perimeter in early July 2007. We were put on alert to be prepared to evacuate the area. We have examined the post-report because of the threat that burn was to our cabin, and while we were pleased to see honest admissions of error in judgement, we wonder if such a lesson continues to be remembered.

Several of our families were on the mountain this summer and noticed the Porcupine Ridge fire, [which was], apparently out of control. We realize that the Forest Service uses natural burns to manage we, also. However, the enormity of the flames observed by us in mid-August and the large increase in acreage burned in a short amount of time in mid-to-late August gives us reason to wonder about fire control decisions. We expect the Forest Service to err on the side of caution in all such things, especially something as risky as a burn. We not only have a concern for our property on the licensed lot at Ferron Reservoir, but an interest in safe and conservative management practices so that the general public can continue to enjoy such a beautiful place.

We have concern with the way the Ferron Reservoir has been managed over the past several years. This may not be part of your jurisdiction but we will share our concerns anyway. The current elevation of the water surface is several feet lower than where it has been in the past. We understand that those responsible for managing the reservoir and dam were worried that the leak was growing and so a decision was made to go in and repair the leak and lower the water surface elevation. We recognize the threat to those downstream and fully understand the need to make repairs. However it appears that the reservoir water level could be raised because of the type of spillway that was constructed. We suggest those managing this beautiful lake to revisit the risk of raising water surface elevation back to what it used to be, if feasible, which will help increase

the number and size of fish and bring pack the island. We ask that reevaluation of the risk and possible mitigation of that risk be considered for the Forest Service 20-Yr Plan revision.

South Zone

Protection of water, plant, and other sensitive areas featured prominently in the miscellaneous South Zone comments. Given the comments we received on the various surveys, such concerns are not surprising. However, much like the North Zone comments, it was clear that the South Zone communities share a very special historical and socioeconomic relationship with the Forest, one that dates back hundreds of years in tribal communities. This relationship was articulated in several comments about the need to protect cultural and historic resources in the South Zone as well as detailed citizen surveys of roadless areas in the Abajos.

- *... As a 35 year resident and contract wildlife biologist living and working on the Abajos, La Sals and Manti Plateau, I have, as Executive Director of Friends of the Abajos and Redrock Forests, completed a roadless inventory and wilderness proposal, which has been provided to the MLS and can be shared again.*

A common oversight in roadless inventories of the past has been to ignore the adjacent agencies and the lands they administer. The most challenging and valuable example of a multi-agency roadless area involving the MLS is the greater Sinbad Roadless Area, which includes BLM and USFS lands in both Colorado and Utah and adds up to a huge, wild and beautiful potential wilderness along a remote stretch of the Dolores River. Please prioritize this magnificent area, identified not only by Redrock Forests, the Utah Forest Network, the Utah Wilderness Coalition, and the Utah Environmental Congress, but by Colorado environmental groups as well.

Hopefully the FS will designate most of the potential wilderness in the La Sals as wilderness, or will find a way to permanently recognize and manage for roadless characteristics where they exist on this tiny mountain island surrounded by a sea of desert dependent on it for water. Otherwise, the few designated wildernesses will stick out like sore thumbs and will be similarly frequented and abused, obliterating the intent of protecting Sinbad as a high functioning ecosystem, particularly in light of the exponentially expanding recreational use, both motorized and non-motorized, deriving from the Moab commercial recreation hub.

Some of the best mature, unharvested ponderosa forest I have ever witnessed in my West-wide pursuit exists on Sinbad Ridge. The Forest Service would do well by the citizenry in designating this an RNA to permanently protect a rare and vanishing resource: a healthy ponderosa ecosystem in the Western US, with a full complement of age classes. It should also firmly cut off the privileged motorized use coming from the private interests blocking off this area to all public access. Extremely hypocritical and reprehensible that they are using we roads on Sinbad for their private hunting interests while blocking the greater public from accessing their public lands. Better to eliminate these faint and inaccessible (to all but a very limited few) routes. As a general management designation, an RNA would facilitate this closure, which would not much change the current situation.)

- *Please protect our water sources. Our family enjoys cookouts occasionally in Johnson Creek. Our favorite place is on a little dirt road. Let's not close any of these roads. When he was alive, our dad would get us fire wood from we. Now others cut the wood from there and we buy it. Heating by a wood stove is lots less expensive than gas or electricity and much cozier. P.S. We also enjoy driving over the Manti/La Sal Mtn. from Monticello to Blanding to see the fall colors.*
- *I appreciate the attempt to make the form easy for the public to comment but it is very onerous in my opinion. Being able to get the form at the meeting was likely convenient for those attending. As you see, these additional comments are given here because there was not enough space to comment on the electronic form. I had to ask a knowledgeable friend how to make the form 'writable' and then learn how to navigate it - not a bad thing necessarily - but I think this is a hindrance to getting comments from the public. Even needing to download the form, print it, and hand write on it and either mail it or scan it and send it back are steps that may not be 'doable' for many folks - in terms of equipment needed as well as time. One should be able to just email you and the ID Team. If this is possible I didn't see this avenue on the web page.*

It is not stated anywhere that I can see that materials, including comment forms, are available at local RD officer or public libraries. If not already, please make documents available in these locations. I apologize in advance if I missed this.

- *I would like to propose that a "connector" trail be constructed between the Pace Lake Trail and the road from the John Brown Road. This road would... provide access from the John Brown Road to the "Little Forest." It is our understanding that many hunters have requested better access to this remote area. The Pace Lake Trail is too difficult for the majority of hunters. Most probably do not even know of its existence.*
- *There have been several occasions this year in which I have had the opportunity to get out in the Manti-La Sal NF. I visited the area off road # 0207 above Bull Canyon three times in spring/summer to enjoy the wildflowers and the scenic vistas. Imagine my surprise to find the same area heavily browsed on August 20 when I led the local chapter of Utah Native Plant Society on a field trip to this area located where road #4659 and road #4622 come together. I did not expect the plant diversity I had seen earlier; yet the damage to the plants was obvious to the entire group.*
- *Another opportunity to see some questionable management on the Forest was when I volunteered with Grand Canyon Trusts' Forest Coordinator, Mary O'Brien. We ran plant transects in Upper Pinhook Pasture where recent water troughs had been installed. The steep landscape and grass forage was taking a direct hit not only from the ongoing cattle activity, but from damage to the land to get the water infrastructure in place. What I saw of a land which continues to heal from earlier wildfire evoked a feeling of "ranch" rather than national forest. I continue to watch the damage in this area while cutting firewood later this fall.*

Neither of these scenarios are desirable conditions for areas that provide for safe drinking water to Castle Valley. Neither of these scenarios are acceptable to me as a citizen who would like to continue to be inspired and sustained by this land.

I trust you will be addressing options for protection and recovery of native plant diversity in your forest revision planning.

- *I would like the Forest Service to consider protecting Castle Valley's sole aquifer recharge area as a grazing free, and extraction industry free area for the protection of our drinking water. We rely on wells for our drinking water so Castle Valley does not have nor can we afford a water treatment facility. We have to trust the quality of our water will remain pure at the top of our aquifer recharge area in the La Sal Mountains.*
- *I love visiting and recreating in the La Sal Mountains and appreciate the new mountain bike trails that are being built... I would like to see the Gold Basin Road in the La Sals closed to winter motorized traffic. This is a very short road (2-3 miles) that is groomed for xc skiers and, if closed to motorized use, could be the only groomed stretch that xc skiers would not have to share with snowmobiles.*

Additionally, even though snow machines (snowmobiles and snow motorcycles) are currently restricted to the road in Gold Basin, they frequently leave the road, tearing up slopes that backcountry skiers enjoy. Having a much greater range than skiers do, and many other slopes to play on further from the parking area, I think this is a reasonable request.

- *... I would like to request that the Forest Service begin to take steps to phase out grazing on forest lands in the LaSal Mountains. This is the sole source aquifer for water for the Town of Castle Valley. All residents in Castle Valley have wells as their water source and we have no water treatment facilities for our Town.*

I think that there has been at least some attempt to address water quality in the Abajo Mountains. On a recent trip through these mountains, I saw on one side at the top a sign that stated that this was the Culinary Water Supply for Monticello. On the other side there was a similar sign for the Blanding water supply. I did not see as many signs of cattle grazing at the top of the mountains.

Many years ago when I first visited this area and went for a hike around Warner and Oowah Lakes, I was dismayed to see all of the manure around the lakes, in the creeks and on the hiking trails. I was used to hiking in the Wasatch Mountains where grazing is not allowed. With the increase of the human population in this area, we cannot continue to exploit the Grand County water supply.

My own grandfather was a cattle rancher in the Kanab area during the Depression. These times are long gone and we need a new plan that reflects and protects one of our most valuable natural resources, which is our water supply.

Thank you for the work you are doing and I hope that you will address the concerns we have about grazing and water under serious scrutiny. A plan to grandfather out these grazing rights should be implemented as part of the new plan.

- *The web page has this statement – "The Plan Monitoring Program consist of monitoring questions and associated indicators to evaluate whether plan components are effective and appropriate, and whether management is effective in maintaining or achieving progress toward desired conditions and objectives." This appears to be 'for the future.' Please provide/post what monitoring has been ongoing since the implementation of the '86 Plan.*
- *Please post: Initial Review of Livestock Grazing Effects on Select Ecosystems of the Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal National Forests (USFS, August 2014) and other studies/documents that have been completed over the years for Forest management.*

- *A conservation alternative is required that accounts for wilderness protection, fewer roads, time-defined withdrawal of grazing in the Forest, prohibitions on mining and drilling, and forest destruction.*

Questions and Answers

During the months of September and October we solicited questions from the public about the Forest Plan Revision process, with the intent of answering those questions in a public forum to increase the broader public's understanding of the Forest Planning Process and to demonstrate our commitment to transparency. One of the mechanism we used to gather questions was on a *Q&A Form* that we disseminated at the September open houses. We also received general questions via email from interested members of the public.

In answering questions, we separated questions relating to forest planning from those related to specific resource areas. The Forest Plan Revision Team answered Forest planning-specific questions below and passed on those outside of the scope of forest planning to the appropriate resource specialist. However, in the spirit of transparency, we added these questions below so those who asked them will be alerted that a response is forthcoming.

With regards to format, the public questions below are displayed in bold italics, while the answers to them are recoded in regular italicized text.

- ***How would Congressman Bishop's PLI impact the plan revision, particularly wilderness areas and the wilderness evaluation process?***
 - *The PLI, if passed by Congress, may designate additional lands as wilderness. If that does occur, the Forest Plan Revision process would continue and incorporate those lands as wilderness.*
- ***Who wrote the 2012 planning rule?***
 - *The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, wrote the 2012 Planning Rule.*
- ***As [the] FS has noted, the last plan was from 1986 – thus the data to support the current process – Plan revision and NEPA compliance – is very much out of date. What project level baseline studies and/or monitoring studies have been completed on the Forest over these many years? Please post them and note whether each would be considered for use in the Plan revision.***
 - *Monitoring reports were completed for the Forest plan and are posted on our webpage. Baseline studies related to site-specific projects may have been completed on a project-level basis and can be found in project records related to specific projects.*

- ***What studies have been done showing the effects of stocking the La Sal Mountains with goats? Why have goats been introduced into the La Sals? Is their impact being monitored?***

- *Currently, the draft Alpine Monitoring Plan has been developed. The purpose of this Alpine Vegetation Monitoring Plan is to provide scientifically sound information on the current status and trends in the composition, structure and function of La Sal Mountain alpine ecosystems through a long-term monitoring program.*

Monitoring will be conducted cooperatively by the US Forest Service and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR). Under the draft plan, up to 128 target plant monitoring sites would be established over the next 5 years. Species composition would be monitored on selected sites using line-point intercept; nested frequency and canopy cover measurements to determine status and trend in vegetation structure and diversity, and to characterize the different vegetation types in the alpine community of the La Sal Mountains; ground cover by point intercept; pellet group count (estimating by fecal pellet-group counts the numbers of big game animals); and the establishment of a motion detection cameras at a minimum of 12 of the 128 Target Species monitoring sites to document any animal presence that may occur at the sample monitoring sites.

Once again, this is a draft plan and thus has not been released to the public. The anticipated release date of the plan is FY17. The intent of having a joint signed monitoring plan with DWR is to have a standardized monitoring program and a unified voice in regards to acceptable disturbance in the La Sal Mountains and Mt. Peale Research Natural Area.

Mountain goats were introduced into the La Sal Mountains by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, which released them on State land. Their impact is being monitored, but the data are preliminary at the present time.

- ***Observations of climate change and likely impacts/changes, now and into the future, are key to providing [a] sound foundation for Plan revision. Have studies been done in this regard? If not, how can they been [sic] completed thoroughly and in a timely manner to support the Plan development?***

- *Region 4 of the Forest Service is conducting documentation on climate change, which is being incorporated into the Assessment Phase. The documents are currently being drafted by the Regional Office and as they become final, we are adding them to the project record for plan revision.*

- ***I would like to know how the state of Utah, Division of Water Quality could become a coordinator on the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan Revision.***

- *We are in the process of setting up a MOU with the State of Utah (Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office), that will provide Cooperating Agency Status to the State Agencies that manage natural resources.*
- ***How will climate change and its specific manifestations in... this forest area (e.g. drought, warming) be adequately addressed, especially in terms of watershed protection in Moab, Castle Valley, etc.? What climate change information does the Forest Service use to make wise decisions about the future?***
 - *The Assessment Report will include this information and is currently in draft stage. The Assessment Report will be made available to the public for review in the winter of 2017.*
- ***[I] Would like to see horse and hiker only trails in the La Sals. Is there any way some trails could be signed or built to exclude, at least, conscientious mountain bikers?***
 - *We have done this in the past. Two years ago we signed a decision that closed the whole northern portion of the La Sal Mountains north of Warner Lake to bikes and made it foot and horse only. We also closed the Dry Fork of Mill Creek and the South Mountain, Pole, and Doe Canyon Trails to bikes and opened them to foot and horse only.*
- ***Is there any attempt to bring back beavers in the La Sals? Beaver are a keystone species for water management, riparian expansion, reconnection of streams with floodplains, support of biodiversity, sub-irrigation of meadows. What is the potential occupation of beaver on MLSNF? What proportion of potential beaver habitat is actually currently occupied? What are the underlying causes of much of the potential habitat not being occupied?***
 - *Forest managers recognize the importance of beavers to riparian ecosystems and water storage/delivery, but do not manage beavers directly. Beavers are managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources under the Utah Beaver Management Plan https://wildlife.utah.gov/furbearer/pdf/beaver_plan_2010-2020.pdf*
 - *This plan recognizes the value of expanding the current distribution of beavers to the historic range, but also states that most suitable habitats in the state are currently occupied. The plan identifies streams approved for translocation, including several on the Manti-La Sal NF. Nuisance beavers (ex. tree cutting in residential areas, dams affecting water diversions/irrigation canals, roads, culverts) can be trapped and relocated. While historically over-trapping had a*

significant impact on beaver populations, human development and changes to riparian habitats are the most likely reason that potential habitat is not occupied today.

- ***How much attention is given in planning to those of us concerned about the future health of the Forest and our need for a healthy watershed in contrast to the loud voices of the ATV and UTV users, cattle grazers, and hunters? I am sick of the vilifying of “environmentalists” as if we are just trying to take away the freedoms of those with guns and vehicles. I think all the environmental organizations that do so much careful research and work to protect our resources into the future should be listened to far more attentively than those one-cause users and abusers!***
 - *Healthy watersheds are a major focus of the 2012 Planning Rule and are incorporated into the Assessment Topics that will be addressed in the Assessment Report. Providing for sustainable ecosystems while managing for multiple uses is the challenge we are tasked with. All groups and users have a voice in developing the new Forest Plan.*
- ***I have grazed sheep for 39 summers on the North Skyline and wonder why on the west side of [the] road the grazing plans are restoration and on the east side the plans are deferred grazing? When Reed Christensen was Forest Supervisor he said there was not an allotment on the Manti-La Sal big enough use[,] rest[, and] rotate properly. Grazing is important for [the] local economy and reducing fuel load[s]... but should be the same for all allotments.***
 - *Grazing permits for allotments are specific to the conditions of each allotment. This is a question that the local Ranger District can address at a site-specific scale.*
- ***MLSNF springs – where are they?***
 - *The Assessment Report will address the springs on the Forest.*
- ***What proportion of creek/stream mileage is supporting native riparian communities? What proportion is connected to the floodplain? Little ground-truthing of R-CAT has been done in southern. Utah – the FS could contract with USU to get this information. Where are conditions of concern occurring, and what are the underlying causes?***
 - *This information will be addressed in the Assessment Report.*
- ***Many springs on the MLSNF are (a) unprotected, (b) accessible to livestock and trampled, [and] (c) fenced minimally so that the adjacent riparian meadows are heavily grazed and depauperate in native species. What proportion of springs are fully functioning with native riparian vegetation dominant?***

- *This information will be addressed in the Assessment Report.*
- **What is the economic condition of the counties adjacent to MLNF?**
 - *This information will be addressed in the Assessment Report.*
- **What proportion of potential cutthroat trout habitat is actually currently occupied?**
 - *This information will be addressed in the Assessment Report.*
- **Does the FS know what proportion of MLSNF springs have declined in water flow; become ephemeral; or become dewatered in recent decades?**
 - *This information will be addressed in the Assessment Report.*
- **Where is potential sage grouse habitat conflicting with other uses (e.g., mining) on the MLSNF?**
 - *This may be addressed in the Assessment Report.*

Tribal Engagement

One of the key components of the 2012 Planning Rule is Tribal engagement. In addition to meeting the official consultation requirement under federal law, the 2012 Planning Rule places special emphasis on Tribal engagement. One of these emphasis areas is identifying Areas of Tribal importance within the planning area in order to better protect them.

In late September, we hosted a booth at the Navajo Nation's annual fair in Bluff, Utah, with the intent of explaining the Plan Revision process to Tribal members and gathering information about Areas of Tribal Importance. We created two tools to do this, including an Areas of Tribal Importance information pamphlet (Attachment 47) and a corresponding survey (Attachment 48). While we did not collect any information at the Navajo Nation fair concerning Areas of Tribal importance, we are confident these tools will be useful for collecting data in the future. We also were able to directly engage with more than a dozen Tribal members at the fair and conduct a radio interview with a local Tribal radio station.

Conclusion

The comments we received during the September open houses were in many cases similar to those we received during the July and August open houses. Respondents in the North Zone expressed their concern with access restrictions, high fuel loads, and a perceived lack of timber extraction from the Forest. In the South Zone, respondents from Moab and Castle Valley continued to express concern over grazing and recreation's impact on biodiversity and the

introduction of mountain goats to the Manti-La Sal Mountains, while those in Monticello and Blanding continued to call for less access restrictions in the Monticello District.

Despite these similarities, however, the introduction of our Wilderness Inventory and draft potential SCC lists elicited some unique responses. With respect to Wilderness, the main takeaway is that most respondents in the North Zone and those in the South Zone communities of Blanding and Monticello are heavily against the recommendation of additional Wilderness areas on the Forest. In contrast to these opinions, of course, were the Wilderness comments from Moab and Castle Valley in the South Zone and one response from the North. These respondents advocated for Wilderness recommendations in the Candling Mountain area of the North Zone and several locations on the Moab and Monticello Districts to protect cultural and heritage sites.

Recommendations for adding SCC to the proposed list were just as polarized. Comments received from the North Zone questioned the need for SCC lists and recommended the removal of two species: Peregrine Falcon and Cutthroat Trout. In contrast, South Zone comments from Moab and Castle Valley indicated a desire to add species to the proposed SCC list, most prominently Pika on the Manti-La Sal Mountains.

While there were opposing viewpoints on many of the issues discussed at the September open houses, especially the topic of Wilderness, there were a few areas of convergence and a sincere commitment by all parties to fully engage in the Plan Revision process. Such sentiments were underscored by the requests received from local governments asking to be cooperating agencies in the planning process.

Another example of a communal commitment to the Forest and the planning process were the sincere responses we received from the public. Many respondents recounted childhood stories about the Manti-La Sal and the importance of the Forest for the socioeconomic sustenance of local communities. Others highlighted the richness of Native American history in our South Zone, with its innumerable cliff dwellings and cultural sites.

Recounting the sincerity of these comments and the many wonderful people we talked with over the past month, we are humbled to work with you to craft a Forest Plan that is worthy of your legacies and those of the many others who have called the area home over the past.

Next Steps

In early November 2016, we plan to host two Forest Plan Revision workshops in Monticello and Price, Utah. These workshops are the last formal public meetings we will hold during the Assessment Phase of Plan Revision.

Unlike previous open houses, where attendees were welcome to arrive at any time during the open houses, we have asked attendees at the November workshops commit to arrive at the beginning of and stay for the duration of the workshops. Participants will rotate through three collaborative group sessions focusing on the Assessment Report, Wilderness Evaluation, and SCC. Each table will be led by a Forest Service facilitator who will take notes and report individual group findings to the broader group at the conclusion of the workshop.

Table 6 - November Public Workshop Schedule

Date	City	Venue	Address	Time
03 Nov. 2016	Monticello	Hideout Community Center	648 South Hideout Way	5:00pm-7:30pm
04 Nov. 2016	Price	Carbon County Fairgrounds Event Center	450 S. Fairgrounds Way	5:00pm-7:30pm

Attachments

- **Attachment 1:** The 2012 Planning Rule
 - http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5428384.pdf
- **Attachment 2:** The Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision Public Participation Strategy
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-bEFwaEYxYVp5bVE>
- **Attachment 3:** The Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision Communication Plan:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-SzITMWhERU1NNms>
- **Attachment 4:** The Manti-La Sal National Forest's, *Forest Plan Revision Kickoff Open House Report – 26 August 2016*
 - http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd516901.pdf
- **Attachment 5:** *A Citizens' Guide to Forest Planning*, compiled by the Federal Advisory (FACA) committee for the Implementation of the 2012 Land Management Planning Rule
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-NUI3WHpJR0kxLWc>
- **Attachment 6:** *Understanding your Opportunities for Participating in the Forest Service Planning Process*, compiled by the FACA committee for the Implementation of the 2012 Land Management Planning Rule:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-ZDZkdUUtRml1UDQ>
- **Attachment 7:** The Manti-La Sal National Forest's Potential SCC Review Procedural Report:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-MWZDTkd0ZWRFQ28>
- **Attachment 8:** Examples of the initial potential SCC recommendation worksheets we sent to its Regional Office for review:
 - Boreal Toad: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-amctT1ZBQWpZNFk>
 - La Sal Daisy: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-THdaZE80LWZ0dzA>
 - Intermountain Bladderpod: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-SXdYSjA2SjRucEk>
 - North American Wolverine: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-N3ZSaW8xYIFjT0k>
- **Attachment 9:** Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook Chapter 10 (Assessments):
 - http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5409846.pdf
- **Attachment 10:** Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook Chapter 70 (Wilderness):
 - http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5409886.pdf
- **Attachment 11:** Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook Chapter 80 (Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR)):
 - http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/fsh/1909.12/wo_1909.12_80.docx
- **Attachment 12:** The Intermountain Region's guidance on Species of Conservation Concern:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-RENxT0JNVFQ0X0U>
- **Attachment 13:** The Washington Office's SCC Enquiry:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-YTYwRG5TdIJWRE0>
- **Attachment 14:** The Washington Office's SCC guidance document, *Applying the 2012 Planning Rule to Conserve Species: A Summarized Practitioner's Reference*:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-UUhQcUZBeGpYTm8>

- **Attachment 15:** Assessment Scales of Analysis Maps:
 - All 18 maps can be found on the Forest's Plan Revision webpage: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>
- **Attachment 16:** Draft Wilderness Inventory #1 Maps
 - Ferron: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-RjNTS3EzRWt4X28>
 - Moab: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-N2V2NC0tLWpEMmM>
 - Monticello: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-TVNKck93NnNaUnM>
 - Price: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-VzhtQ1NUWU1GTWc>
 - Sanpete: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-TTI2YVB5NEdleig>
- **Attachment 17:** Wilderness Evaluation Informational Booklet
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-ZXJiVjdkN0ZaOTA>
- **Attachment 18:** Wilderness Evaluation Flow Chart Handout:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-N05XdeFhRTFsMTg>
- **Attachment 19:** Wilderness Evaluation Timeline:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-ZWFLVIFqZGJfd1k>
- **Attachment 20:** Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Evaluation Information Sheet:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-aWJOYldZbXJ3NHM>
- **Attachment 21:** Forest Plan Revision Information Pamphlet:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-SUY3bjBkOEdDa28>
- **Attachment 22:** Assessment Handout:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-ejNtZnIHOTdBc0U>
- **Attachment 23:** Stressors/Drivers Handout:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-aVQyS3lxNDBhQIk>
- **Attachment 24:** Next Steps Handout:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-Ny1za1A2T0FDZ2c>
- **Attachment 25:** SCC Criteria Flow Chart:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-WnA0WTRkZ3F0ZUK>
- **Attachment 26:** SCC Procedural Flow Chart and Initial Potential SCC List:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-M19kbmxISjFoYVk>
- **Attachment 27:** Best Available Scientific Information (BASI) Handout:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-YUpNSHpScHhDSjA>
- **Attachment 28:** Talking Points Collaborative Mapping Tool How-To Guide:
 - <https://my.usgs.gov/tpcm/study/preamble/173>
- **Attachment 29:** Wilderness Survey:
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVXG63L>
- **Attachment 30:** SCC Survey:
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PC99MPC>
- **Attachment 31:** Assessment Survey:
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCBGT5T>
- **Attachment 32:** Public Participation Survey:
 - https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd512116.pdf
- **Attachment 33:** Question and Answer Form:
 - https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd512117.pdf
- **Attachment 35:** Friend's of Cedar Mesa, Wilderness Evaluation Comments
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B05zlfuaVok-d19zLU05bGowOHc/view?usp=sharing>
- **Attachment 36:** State of Utah Wilderness Evaluation Comments:

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B05zlfuaVok-bE4yUTRBcXF4WWM/view?usp=sharing>
- **Attachment 37:** Manti-La Sal National Forest Wilderness Comments, Dan Kent:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-OVI3UWI0NGh0TTg>
- **Attachment 38:** Utah Farm Bureau
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-WFR1akVyMFBDeW8>
- **Attachment 39:** Open house invitation letter:
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B05zlfuaVok-Qmx2QktEak1MUG8/view?usp=sharing>
- **Attachment 40:** Websites
 - Plan Revision Webpage:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>
 - StoryMap Webpage:
<http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b351acf860564ba8a9bee7df4a4c7774>
- **Attachment 41:** Flyers:
 - November Workshop Flyer: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-RTIxb0pwRVg1dWM>
 - September Open House Flyer: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-bVptcEoxM18yYjQ>
- **Attachment 42:** Emery County Plan Revision Comments:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-TW9CTUZIS2t1NGc>
- **Attachment 43:** Carbon County Plan Revision Comments:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-YmJhbmX6YXd3R0U>
- **Attachment 44:** Larson Family Plan Revision Comments:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-YUdHb2IMX1V5bHc>
- **Attachment 45:** Pace Lake to John Brown Canyon Connector, A Proposal to the Manti-La Sal National Forest and Grand Junction BLM Field Office:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-QXFaeGtMQ2x1Tkk>
- **Attachment 46:** Diane Ackerman Plan Revision Comments:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-d0NpdVY4SlhEQnc>
- **Attachment 47:** Areas of Tribal Importance Information Pamphlet:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-d2NSY01qeIVqSTQ>
- **Attachment 48:** Areas of Tribal Importance Survey: corresponding survey:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-cWlaeUVoUkFDZGM>
- **Attachment 49:** Utah Farm Bureau Plan Revision Comments:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B05zlfuaVok-aVJsMm5kaV9hR2s>